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MPs worried as results show pupils lagging behind

CONCERN OVER POOR GRADES

Report by Megan Archer

DUDLEY'S MPs have spoken of their concern over figures which show that children in Dudley are lagging behind the rest of the Black Country.

National curriculum assessments, known as SATs, show that 43 per cent of primary school pupils who took the exam in Dudley are not meeting required basic standards for maths and English.

Figures released on Monday from the Department for Education show that across the Black Country and Staffordshire 9,322 youngsters who took their SAT exams in May failed to achieve the minimum required scores.

Dudley posted some of the worst SAT scores in the country, according to the figures, with 1,580 children in total not achieving the Government's required standard in all their tests.

MP for Dudley South Mike Wood said: "As the husband of a teacher and father of two young children, I know that we have many extremely talented and dedicated staff in our local schools."

Succeed

"We do need to ask why schools in Dudley don't perform as well as schools in Greater Manchester, in London or similar urban areas, and what more can be done to make sure we are giving our children the best possible chances to succeed."

MP for Dudley North Ian Austin added: "We're falling behind other countries when it comes to school results, so I don't think national standards are good enough, yet Black Country schools are lagging stubbornly behind even those."

Kids in the Black Country need a first class start because, in the modern world, the quality of your education and your ability to learn, adapt and acquire new skills will have a bigger effect on the sort of jobs you get in the future.

"These figures show why we need to make education and skills the Black Country's number one priority and insist on schools improving much more quickly."

ROCK ON – NINE-YEAR-OLD JOSEPH IS A STAR



Nine-year-old Joseph Sheppard in full-on rock star mode with mother Kay, the Dudley youngster stars in a popular TV advert

A MINI rocker from Dudley has become a TV hit after taking the starring role in the new John Lewis advert based on Queen hit Bohemian Rhapsody.

Nine-year-old Joseph Sheppard is the star of the ad which sees youngsters turn a school show into an epic production inspired by the 70s rock anthem.

The Foxyards Primary School pupil is seen

in the grand finale in a white jumpsuit with cape playing a V-shaped guitar sat on top of a rocket before an audience of stunned parents.

The advert first hit the screens during the Great British Bake Off on Channel 4 last week.

Joseph's proud mother Kay said he had been playing guitar since the age of seven and revealed they were surprised when he was

chosen for the starring role. "We thought we had no chance as there were kids auditioning who had been on television before," she said.

"Then he got a call back and there was just him and another boy – we were so shocked."

"It was phenomenal. The next time we went back and we found out Joseph had got the part."

● Is this the real life? – page 15

Town set to lose MP in big shake-up of boundaries

'OUTRAGEOUS' plans to drastically redraw Dudley's parliamentary boundaries have been branded 'a dog's breakfast' by Dudley North Labour MP Ian Austin.

Mr Austin's seat and Tory MP Mike Wood's Dudley South seat are both set to be axed following the completion of a long running review of constituencies by the Boundary Commission.

Mr Austin has criticised the move, which will see people living in and around Dudley town centre represented by three different parliamentary seats, and Gornal and Upper Gornal in separate constituencies.

The old Dudley North and South seats each had around 61,000 constituents. The shake-up would see them replaced by a 75,000-voter Dudley seat, with the remaining voters split between Stourbridge, Halesowen and Rowley Regis and a new seat, Darlaston and Tipton.

Incorporate

The proposed new Dudley seat will incorporate much of the current Dudley South seat, as well as Gornal and the town centre ward of St James's.

Netherton and Woodside will become part of Halesowen and Rowley Regis, the current seat of Conservative MP James Morris, while a section of Brierley Hill will be taken by Stourbridge. St Thomas's – currently in Dudley North – will become part of Warley.

The changes follow a review designed to reduce the number of MPs from 650 to 600, and also make each constituency roughly the same size.

Mr Austin said the move would also 'tear apart' local communities, saying: "This is an outrageous decision by people who have clearly never been to Dudley. They are trying to split the town down the middle, which is absolutely ludicrous. They have made a right dog's breakfast of it."

■ Redrawing the map – page 14

INSIDE

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PAGE 3

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| BRAIN GYM | 22 |
| PROPERTY | 23 |
| LOCAL SPECIALISTS | 25-26 |
| MOTORING | 30 |
| SPORT | 31-32 |
| CONTACT US | |

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Bosses 'determined' to improve A&E



Diane Wake – determined

BOSSES at Russells Hall Hospital say they are determined to deliver improvements within the hospital's emergency department.

Diane Wake, chief executive of the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, said the trust welcomed the CQC report and its findings (see below).

She said: "We are absolutely determined to deliver the improvements within our Emergency Department (ED) to ensure our patients are safe."

"Following the June inspection, we have made immediate changes to our triage processes, how we identify, escalate and

manage patients with sepsis or a deteriorating medical condition, and undertaken a comprehensive staffing review in line with professional standards and best practice guidance."

"We have increased resources during times when the department is at its busiest and can demonstrate week-on-week improvement in triage time. In August 89.76 per cent of patients were triaged within 15 minutes. Our aim is to triage 95 per cent of patients within 15 minutes."

"We have retrained staff in ED in the screening and management of sep-

sis and introduced eSepsis to automate the process of identifying and monitoring patients at risk for sepsis. We have also introduced electronic observations along with a comprehensive dashboard that enables us to monitor patients in real-time and retrospectively."

"We have reviewed and agreed the need to increase ED consultant cover by a further five consultants and put in place an additional clinical support worker."

"We have recently appointed a new clinical lead for urgent and emergency care."

Probe into deaths of patients at Russells Hall

AN INVESTIGATION has been launched into the deaths of more than 50 patients at Russells Hall Hospital.

As part of an inspection in June (see story, left) the Care Quality Commission (CQC) examined the hospital's death records from the first six months of 2018 – sparking an independent inquiry into a reported 54 deaths.

Urgent and emergency services remain ranked 'inadequate' at the crisis-stricken hospital, with concerns raised that some patients were 'exposed to and potentially suffered avoidable harm'.

A spokesperson said: "The CQC has raised concerns about deaths at Russells Hall Hospital and, following our June inspection and discussion with partner agencies, an independent review has been commissioned to look into a number of deaths."

Former NHS England deputy chief executive Mike Bewick has conducted the review.

Diane Wake, chief executive of the Group NHS Foundation Trust, said: "We routinely review all deaths across the hospital and they are subject to further internal review as part of our routine mortality review process and we have the lowest mortality rate in the Black Country. Any death we are concerned about is reported to the coroner."

Concerns

"Following concerns raised by the CQC an independent review of all deaths in our emergency department over a six month period has been commissioned. We will receive the report by the end of September and we will be working with our system partners to ensure any learning is embedded."

Dudley South MP Mike Wood – who was treated for sepsis at Russells Hall last year – attended an urgent meeting with trust bosses, the CQC and NHS Improvement to discuss the report into the A&E department and the inquiry into patient deaths.

He said: "They are seeing changes in the right direction but there is no doubt that progress has been slower than it should have been."

"The public needs to know that the worrying shortcomings highlighted in the report are being dealt with."

"The challenge for Russells Hall is to get the A&E department up to the excellent standards of care that exist in other areas of the hospital."

Dudley Council leader Councillor Patrick Harley said: "We need answers on how they got into this mess and, more importantly, how they are going to recover."

Health trust chief executive Diane Wake said that in response to the report the trust had approached a neighbouring trust whose A&E was rated 'good', so that best practice could be shared between consultants.

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Leader will not change mind over traveller site

THE leader of Dudley Council says he will not change his mind on a planned travellers' transit site in Budden Road, Coseley.

Dudley planning bosses approved plans for a temporary travellers' transit site in May, with a total of 40 caravan pitches set to be provided for a period of three years.

Councillor Patrick Harley told campaigners: "I am not going to change my mind. Officers carried out a through process and it was decided it is the best site in the borough."

The council leader also criticised Wolverhampton South East MP Pat McFadden, who wrote to the Secretary of State asking for the decision to be reconsidered.

Legal

Councillor Harley said: "I have criticised him because we do not feel there is any legal basis for the action that he wants the Secretary of State to take. Because of that, throughout the summer, the borough has been plagued with illegal encampments.

"Every time we move them on it is a cat-and-mouse game, chasing them from one park to another. It is a merry-go-round."

"The easiest way to deal with this is have the transit site, where if you do not vacate the borough or go to that site within two hours that is an arrestable offence."

Talks on secondary school in Coseley

A MULTI-million pound secondary school could be built on the site of the former Coseley School.

The secondary school controversially shut its doors in 2017 due to dwindling numbers, with pupils move to neighbouring schools. It was due to be replaced by the £6m Coseley Technology Primary, scheduled to open next year.

But now Dudley Council bosses have revealed that plans for a new secondary school on the site are in the 'early stages' of development.

Dudley Council officers and officials from Shireland Collegiate Academy Trust are discussing expanding Coseley Technology Primary. Councillor Susan Ridney, of Coseley East, said more education provision was needed.

Jobs fair at centre

INTU Merry Hill sponsor the second annual jobs and careers fair at Brierley Hill Civic Hall today (Thursday) between 1pm and 4.30pm, hosted by Dudley South MP Mike Wood.

New care home set to create 30 jobs

A 90-bed care home has been proposed for construction in Rowley Regis, under new plans that would create 30 jobs.

The home would be built on land at the junction of Moor Lane and Harvest Road and have round-the-clock staff on duty there, if the plans are approved.

Bosses say the home could create 20 full-time and 10 part-time jobs. The plans, submitted by Sandwell Council, would see a mixture of one and two-bedroom apartments built on the vacant land.

Sandwell Council's cabinet member for social care, Councillor Ann Shackleton, stated that one of her priorities was to provide more 'extra care' housing to help older people live independently.

While Sandwell's Housing Strategy Statement for 2012 to 2022 states the council is committed to "improve the 'housing offer' to older people through extra care schemes and new homes to encourage downsizing".

The plans say the centre will be a community hub that is open for local people to drop-in and use for social

interaction as well as meals or just a cup of tea.

The building will provide a 24-hour staffed service and will create new jobs for local people, says the council.

Councillor Chris Tranter, who represents the Rowley ward, has welcomed the plans with 'open arms'.

Excellent

He added: "Myself and a co-councillor visited one of the similar homes in Tipton when it was first talked about bringing one here. It is very similar

to what is being proposed for Rowley Regis and it was an excellent facility."

"The facilities for people staying there were brilliant – if it is like that as we are led to believe, it will be a great thing for Rowley Regis. It gives older people the opportunity to live safely in the community."

"I welcome it with open arms and it will be a great addition to Rowley Regis if it is approved."

A decision on the planning application for the care home will be made in the coming months.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Man stabbed in the neck on street

DETECTIVES are investigating after a man was stabbed in the neck on a street in the Black Country.

The victim, a man in his mid-20s, was reportedly arguing with a group of people in Bearmore Road, in Cradley Heath, when a moped drove into the street.

The rider was stopped by the group and confronted by the victim – the moped rider then stabbed the man in the neck. His injuries are not thought to be life threatening.

The moped rider, a 39-year-old man, was detained by members of the group, and arrested by police shortly afterwards.

Forum to discuss health in borough

PEOPLE in the Dudley borough are being asked for their views on improving local health services.

The latest public healthcare forum is being held on Thursday, September 20 at the Revival Fires Apostolic Revival Centre in Wolverhampton Street, Dudley, at 12.30pm.

The forum helps Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group with planning health provision in the borough and deciding on priorities.

Anyone wishing to attend the event should book a place by calling (01384) 321730.

Faiths unite to celebrate peace

A WORLD Peace Day multi-faith event is being held in Dudley on September 21. Churches and faith groups from across the borough are invited to get involved in the event at St John the Evangelist Church, St John's Road, Kates Hill, at 2pm.

There will be presentations from different faiths and at 4.45pm the annual Bert Bissell memorial walk will take place to Cawney Hill. The walk is organised by St John's Preservation Group in memory of Dudley peace campaigner Bert Bissell. Call 07484 023809.

Bands buzzing for rock festival to help charity

STOURBRIDGE hard rock band Buzzard is organising a fundraising mini festival in the town this weekend.

Buzz Fest is being held at the Claptrap venue in High Street on Saturday, from 4pm, and will be raising money for Cancer Research UK. Other bands playing include Voodoo Sioux, Theia, Gunners Law, Wake-down, King Corpse, Flashhearts and We Were Demons. Tickets £6 at www.buzzarduk.com website.

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Channel swimmers beat the waves in friend's memory

FOR most people, swimming the English Channel would be considered a huge achievement.

But an intrepid team of swimmers, who formed in memory of a tragic friend, crossed the 20-mile stretch separating England and France not once, not twice but an incredible four times without stopping.

The six-person team, led by Paul Bates, originally from Walsall, took on the gruelling task, making it a record by becoming the first in Europe to complete a four-way crossing of the English Channel.

Motorhome and caravan show at NEC

THE Motorhome and Caravan Show comes to the Birmingham National Exhibition Centre next month following a summer of records for caravanning enthusiasts.

The Caravan and Motorhome Club, with nearly a million members and 2,700 locations, saw a 12 per cent rise in summer bookings this year, with the August bank holiday producing record bookings.

The Camping and Caravanning Club is celebrating record membership with approximately 720,000 members.

More than 700 tourers, motorhomes, camper vans, holiday homes and trailer tents will be on show at the NEC from October 16 to 21. Architect and TV presenter George Clarke will open the show. Tickets are on sale at www.mcshow.co.uk website.

Charity

Big Rick's Swim Team formed 10 years ago in memory of Walsall swimmer Mark Rickhuss, who died aged 41 of a heart attack in 2005 after helping a friend swim the Channel. The father-of-two previously swam the Channel himself in 1999.

Friend and keen swimmer Paul decided to put together a team to take on charity swims in Mark's memory. They crossed the Channel for the first time in 2011. They had completed three two-way swims but this time decided to something no team in Europe had managed before.

Members have come and gone over the last decade, during which time the group raised £95,000 for charity but Paul, 50, managed to convince five friends from Perry Beeches Swimming Club to join him on this mission.



The team of swimmers – Paul Bates, front, Melanie Holland, Charlie Wheadon, Stuart Fuller, Ross Emery and Ryan Coley

The group made up of Paul, Stuart Fuller, from Rushall, Ross Emery, from Streetley, Ryan Coley, from Halesowen, Charlie Wheadon, from Erdington, and Melanie Holland, from Norwich, trained for six months before finally taking to the water at Dover for the daunting challenge on September 4 at 3.20am.

Paul said: "We did a two-way swim two years ago but for this one we doubled everything. We trained five times a week in the pool. As soon as we were able to go outside, in April after all the snow, we went to a pool in Tamworth." They had set out hoping to smash the world record for a four-way crossing, but came agonisingly short of the 42-hour time posted by a Mexican team. But they knew just making it home to shore would be an amazing achievement in itself, such was the rough nature of the waves they encountered as they ended up reaching the Kent shore in Folkestone rather than back at Dover.

Paul said: "It was a bit of a challenge getting back to Dover, we missed the tide."

"We were doing about two-and-a-half mph on each swim but the last six miles took almost six hours."

"We saw Folkestone and it seemed as it if as it wasn't getting any closer. At this point it was all about finishing."

Honours for hard-working volunteers

A WOMAN from Halesowen is among community heroes who have received their British Empire Medal this week.

Judith Morris, from Halesowen, has been awarded a BEM for almost 60 years of service with St John Ambulance.

Mrs Morris joined the charity as a cadet in 1959 and became a unit manager. The 66-year-old is now responsible for training the next generation of lifesavers having spent 20 years as the manager of the charity's Halesowen Youth Unit.

Also being honoured is David Walker, 63, from Rowley Regis, for dedicating the past 20 years to helping young people in Sandwell.

Those due to be honoured by West Midlands Lord-Lieutenant, John Crabtree OBE, at an investiture at Birmingham Council House also included: Pauline Hodgetts, aged 74, from Tipton, for her work to celebrate Tipton's heritage; Elfyn Pugh, 83, of Willenhall Rugby Club; Kathryn Livingston, 61, from Wolverhampton, for her work highlighting Dissociative Identity Disorder; previously known as multiple personality disorder; historian Terry Price, 79, from Walsall.

Dudley's Terry is back to bake again

DUDLEY'S Terry survived the third episode of the Great British Bake Off on Tuesday.

The man with the moustache impressed judges Paul Hollywood and Prue Leith with his delicious buns and came top in the technical with his garlic scone. But his showstopper didn't impress.

The departure of baking banker Antony means that the Black Country's representative will be back next week to bake again – in dessert week.

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A JUNIOR doctor from Wolverhampton has been found dead at a hospital just three shifts into a new role.

The locum doctor, named on social media as Lithuanian Eduard Zigar, was found at Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEB) on Monday, August 27.

The hospital said he had started work at the trust just the week before and had completed three shifts in general surgery. The 25-year-old is believed to have gone missing the previous Friday.

An inquest has been opened and adjourned at Birmingham Coroner's Court and is due to resume December 6.

University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust, which runs the QEB, said: "An agency locum doctor was sadly found dead on hospital premises on Monday, August 27."

"The individual had started work with the trust the previous week, and had completed three shifts in general surgery."

"The police were called, and the death has been referred to the coroner. Our deepest sympathies are extended to family and friends."

A spokesman for West Midlands Police said: "The death is not being treated as suspicious and has been referred to the coroner."

Inquest opens on sea death tragedy

AN inquest has been opened and adjourned on a bo who died after getting into difficulty in the sea in Wales.

Blake Ward, aged 16, of Wentworth Road, Bushbury, was pulled from the sea at Tywyn, south Gwynedd.

The inquest, in Caernarfon, was opened and adjourned by North West Wales coroner Dewi Pritchard Jones.

Region singled out as one of the worst for exercise

THE Black Country has been highlighted as one of the worst regions in the country for the lack of people exercising.

Figures show that only one in three walk for 10 minutes or cycle each week. A cycling charity suggests people could be put off by the increase in traffic on the roads. A cycling club spokesman admitted members did not feel safe on local roads.

The exercise figures come as the number of pedestrian and cyclists seriously injured or killed in the West Midlands soars to more than 650 in a year.

Wolverhampton Wheelers equipment secretary Ron Ansell said better infrastructure and a change in attitude toward cyclists from some motorists was needed. He added: "The majority of motorists are fine, but you get the odd few who do drive dangerously. There is not a quick solution."

Canals

Sandwell came top in the country for the lowest proportion of people who walked for 10 minutes or cycles each week with 60 per cent of residents doing so. In Wolverhampton 62 per cent of people walk for 10 minutes or cycle every week, in Dudley it is 64 per cent and 68 per cent in South Staffordshire.

Gavin Passmore, West Midlands partnerships manager for Sustrans, the charity making it easier for people to walk and cycle, said: "We mustn't forget good quality green infrastructure on the canals and in parks exists, but further investment is needed to connect routes and build high quality cycling routes on main roads."

The figures, which came from the Department of Transport, also showed 62 per cent of people felt it was too dangerous to cycle on the roads nationally.

STC chairman Tim French said the group was 'delighted' with the reception to their latest production, which is about a Second World War evacuee and the bond he forms with a grumpy rural widower who is forced to take him in.

It is based on a popular novel by Michelle Magorian and a TV drama version featured the late John Thaw as 'Mister Tom'.

Mr French said: "We were abso-

lutely delighted with three sold-out performances. The audience seemed to love it, we loved doing it. What more can you ask?"

The group performed the show at Stourbridge Town Hall last week and members are already rehearsing for their next offering, Broken Truce, a play written by company member David Morris.

Goodnight Mister Tom is sell-out success



George Westley-Smith as William, Graham Moffit as Mr Tom and Ben Jackson as Zach in Goodnight Mr Tom GOODNIGHT Mister Tom has made a successful amateur stage debut in the Black Country with all performances sold out.

Stourbridge Theatre Company was one of the first to perform the play in the region after its recent release for amateur drama companies.

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tion to their latest production, which is about a Second World War evacuee and the bond he forms with a grumpy rural widower who is forced to take him in.

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Terrorism – three more face charges

THREE further people have been charged with terrorism offences following an investigation by West Midlands Counter Terrorism Unit.

Garry Jack, aged 22 of Heathland Avenue, Shad End, Daniel Ward, aged 28 of Highmore Drive, Birmingham and a 17-year-old male from Nottingham – who cannot be identified for legal reasons – have been charged with being members of the proscribed organisation, National Action contrary to section 11 of the Terrorism Act 2000. They were due to appear at Westminster Magistrates Court this week.

Alice Cutter, aged 22, and Mark Jones, 24, both of Wharf Street in Halifax, were charged with the same offences on Thursday. They appeared at court on Friday and were remanded in custody.

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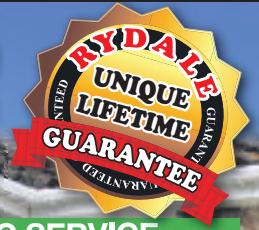


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Stolen car? You can go and whistle for it now

HAD your car half-inched lately? If so, don't hold your breath expecting anybody to have their collars felt. According to new figures released by the Home Office, 91 per cent of car-theft cases are quietly dropped by West Midlands Police without a suspect being identified.

The figure is slightly better in Staffordshire, where 64 per cent of cases are dropped, and West Mercia, where it is 74 per cent, but not much. It is a similar story if you suffer a burglary. West Midlands Police closes 90 per cent of its burglary cases without anybody being apprehended.

Still, the great news is that the Government is looking to make misogyny a criminal offence. Misogyny seems to be all the rage at the moment; until about 15 years ago I had never even heard of it, but now everybody is talking about it. It's like 'resilience' – this time last year it was just another word, sparingly used. Now you rarely hear a public servant string more than a few words together without uttering the R-word.

I think misogyny is the modern word for what we used to call 'sexism', and means that the boys in blue – can you still call them that? – will be asked to devote their time to nicking wolf-whistlers following the success of a pilot scheme in Nottinghamshire.

Presumably, if you've had your car stolen or your house broken into, you can, well, go and whistle for it.

□ □ □

SO Wonga is no more. How are we going to deal with that? Where will we go now if we want to borrow money at 1,500 per cent APR? Still, I dare say we will manage one way or another.

It would be tempting to conclude that the money lender was going the same way as many of its customers, as it heads into oblivion under a sea of debt. Except it's not, really is it?

While many of those who, perhaps foolishly, borrowed money off Wonga will still be obliged to pay it back at exorbitant interest rates, the company's debts will almost certainly die with it. And its directors will walk away debt free, they are only employees after all, and will probably land plump roles somewhere else in the financial sector.

That's the way things go sometimes, and I guess the odd injustice like this is the price we have to pay for living in a free society where enterprise is encouraged.

But wouldn't it be lovely if the bosses of Wonga were made to pay off the debts out of their own pockets? At 1,500 per cent APR, of course.

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First Man movie causes a flap over moment's omission



Flagging drama – Ryan Gosling as Neil Armstrong, but where is the iconic moment?



Farewell Wonga, whose short-term loans may have helped avoid costly bank charges



Melania Trump, otherwise known as FLOTUS, an Americanism which should stay in America

Fly him to the moon, but leave out best bit

WE have the information, the technology and the political will to identify tax-dodgers and deny them anything in the Honours List. So why can't we get the money off them?

YES, I get the argument that the 1969 moon landing was an achievement for all mankind (and womankind, naturally). Even so, it seems bizarre that the new film, First Man, deliberately leaves out the moment when Neil Armstrong planted the United States flag on the lunar surface. The Canadian star, Ryan Gosling, says the landing "transcended countries and borders." Maybe. But the flag planting happened and why tinker with history? It is the equivalent of a movie about Trafalgar with Nelson lying mortally wounded and not saying anything at all to Hardy.

GOOD luck with the new online NHS test to establish the true age of your heart compared with your real age, unveiled this week. If you get a really good result it means your heart is strong enough to keep you alive long enough to die of cancer. They say knowledge is power. Knowledge can also be scary.

AND how strange, after last week's warning that there's no safe limit for alcohol, that the online heart-age test doesn't ask a single question about your boozing. Something doesn't add up.

IS anyone surprised at the latest report showing that women and girls are many times more likely to be sexually harassed in mixed changing rooms than in the single-sex sort? Anyone

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



could have predicted it. Unisex facilities, intended to make transgender people feel at ease, are a happy hunting ground not for the trans community but for old-fashioned weirdos, flashers, gropers and paedos. This wickedness will surely end in tragedy with a child being raped, abducted or worse in a mixed changing room. And then, after the event, politicians will finally accept that it's better to keep people safe than in caving in to every tub-thumping pressure group.

I AM about to describe something that some of you will recognise instantly and others will not. The strange part is that no-one knows what percentage of people experience ASMR, Autonomous Sensory Meridian Response. It's a sort of pleasurable, fuzzy tingling sensation in the scalp. It can be induced by stimuli like the sound of a voice. Scientists say this sensation seems to be related to a lowering of the heart rate and describe it as "a really complex emotional state that some people have and some people don't." Further research is planned. In the meantime, those of us who get the blissed-out state known as ASMR can only pity those who don't. Whoever said life was fair?

WONGA, the payday-loan company has gone bust, amid much rejoicing. But a reader takes

a different view. A former customer, he says paying Wonga £10 to borrow £100 for a few days was a lot cheaper than incurring overdraft or other fees imposed by respectable high-street banks. "The idiots have ruined everything again," he rages.

I'M not entirely convinced. Nor am I persuaded by nostalgic references to those "cuddly" OAP puppets used in the Wonga TV adverts. I always thought they looked sinister, like a trio of former concentration-camp guards.

A HOT air balloon made an unplanned landing in a suburban street in Gloucester. A spokesman for the company declared: "It was a text-book landing." Oh, yeah? Show us the text book. I bet that somewhere on page one of the Balloon Flyers' Text Book is the advice: "Do not land this balloon anywhere in a city."

ACCORDING to one newspaper, President Trump has "doubled down" on his attacks on the Press. The phrase, based on raising your stakes in blackjack is an Americanism and it should stay in America. Sadly, some British journo seem more interested in showing off their US-cred newspeak than in communicating anything meaningful. I include political pundits who refer to "GOP" in their dispatches, assuming that English listeners know it stands for Grand Old Party. And don't get me started on POTUS, FLOTUS and Veep. If you mean President of the United States, First Lady and Vice-President, for the benefit of us Limeys, just say so.

TALKING POINT



Pets taking a seat on the couch for therapy

APPARENTLY 'experts' – whoever they are – warn that with the return to school of children in the household, pet owners should be wary of separation anxiety with their dogs, cats, budgies, goldfish etc.

Really? So apart from the costs of keeping on top of vaccinations and check-ups at the vets', now we're expected to keep tabs on our fluffy ones' mental health? Take our dog (please), she's an old rescue dog, labrador-Staffie cross, mostly deaf, with terrible eyesight and a host of other ailments as long as your arm – with the treatments to match. She's smelly, with hardly any teeth, probably suffering with some kind of dementia, a bit overweight and coughs a lot.

Are we seriously now having to watch for changes in behaviour due to increased anxiety? Already it's like she's permanently attached via an invisible umbilical cord, which means doorways can be a problem. Opening cupboards and the washing machine door often results in a rather disturbing crunching noise as it impacts her head because you don't realise she's directly behind you.

The only anxiety she feels is whenever anyone goes in the kitchen, she thinks it's feeding time because she has forgotten she ate half an hour before.

I'm sure I'm not alone in recognising the idiosyncrasies of their pet, be they fury, smooth, feathered or with long spindly legs and forked tongues. They can be part of life that brings joy, despair, and usually unconditional love for the owner.

But foisting some kind of psychological label onto them if some or other members of the household are absent, ie separation anxiety – what a lot of old tosh!

I mean, regarding dogs in particular, what are they going to do if little Johnny's not watching children's TV every morning sitting next to them on the sofa? Is Fido suddenly going to start howling at the front door in despair? Maybe pacing round the room?

Nonsense – if it's anything like our mutt, he'll be enjoying the freedom to do exactly what he wants which, if there's a bit of sunshine and a window to let it through, will involve lying down on the floor where it's warm, and nodding off. Such ridiculous psychobabble aimed at our domestic lives is just more nanny-state rubbish coming through thanks largely to trashy American TV shows which focus on the minutiae of normal existence as if our very lives depended on it.

Anyway, must dash, just been told the dog's on the roof after a binge-drinking session.

GRAEME ANDREW

Did you vote to make yourself poorer?

WE know that there was a majority of people in the UK, mainly older generation, who voted to leave the EU. How many of those people voted to have a poorer future and less security when we leave the EU?

The International Monetary Fund has stated that after Brexit, Great Britain's GDP will be between three percent and eight percent lower than had we remained in the EU. In soccer terms, the UK is relegating itself from the premier league of countries in the EU to division two of trading nations. The world must be wondering what is

happening to our politics in Britain. Surely 27 countries in the world's largest trading bloc cannot be wrong.

The days of the British Empire are over but a minority of ultra-right wing politicians appear to believe that other countries will be rushing to trade with us. They are only using Brexit to further their own political ambitions. Many of these politicians have the financial resources to survive Brexit.

They don't have any idea how ordinary people will manage price rises due to a falling pound and more expensive commodities generally.

J WEYHAM
Stourbridge

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.



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If you are unhappy with the accuracy of a story, write to The Editor, Chronicles, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

EMAIL

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Friendship group's thanks for donation

THE committee and members of CAMEO Friendship Group at the Dartmouth Central Club, West Bromwich, would like to thank the members and supporters of the bowling team at the Woodman Public House in Netherton for the very generous donation of £530 for our funds which was raised during the Jenny Geary memorial trophy event.

Organiser Sue Cooper and everyone involved worked extremely hard to make sure the events were a success and everyone at CAMEO want to say how much they appreciate the efforts taken. The generosity of all attending was outstanding which comes as no surprise as everyone knows that the hearts of Black Country people are made of gold.

MARGARET BEVAN
West Bromwich

Help track down my relatives

I AM writing to request help in my search for members of my dad's (George Carpenter, born 24th February 1933 in Wolverhampton) side of the family, to a Priscilla Carpenter. His father is unknown. In particular, I am looking for my father's brother and sisters, all of Priscilla Carpenter and their father, Harry Willis.

These are Arthur J H Willis, born 1936 in Wednesbury; Edith Ellen Willis, born August 5, 1937 in Walsall; Edith married John Alan Horobin in Walsall on December 16, 1960; Margaret Rose Willis, born September 9, 1938, in Lichfield.

At the age of one, in 1939, she resided in what I think to be a children's home in Sedgley. On December 4, 1943, she was adopted into the family name Beard. I very much hope that you will be able me to find out more about my dad's siblings. Anyone who thinks they can help, can call 07799878777.

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8 Ghosthunters to investigate aerodrome

AN airfield with a long history, including as an RAF base, is to be investigated by paranormal enthusiasts.

Halfpenny Green Airport has a history in aviation and military use dating back to the Second World War and was the scene of an accident that killed a member of the British royal family.

A team of paranormal investigators will visit the site and members of the public are invited to join them. The Shropshire-based Paranormal Friends will use a combination of investigation techniques.

Co-founder Christopher Morris said: "We are really excited at the opportunity to investigate Halfpenny Green Airport. There are so many stories we have been told about potential paranormal activity. With such a long history of RAF use as well as civil aviation, thousands of people will have links to this location. People using the airport have experienced unexplained goings on. People have regularly said they hear unexplained sounds."

The investigation takes place on October 27 between 9pm and 2am. Tickets cost £30 and can be booked at paranormalfriends.co.uk website.

Prince William of Gloucester, the Queen's cousin, died at the airfield in August 1972 when the aircraft he was piloting crashed.

Fashion show in village will help hospice funds

A POPULAR fashion show will return for its eighth event to raise funds for charity.

The show will see members of the Happy Families store in Hagley taking to the stage to raise money for Mary Stevens Hospice. Tickets to the event at Hagley Community Centre on October 22, at 7.30pm, cost £5. Contact the shop on 01562 887188.

Strictly's Amy blasts off with actor Danny

DUDLEY-BASED professional dancer Amy Dowden is hoping for out-of-this-world success in the new series of BBC TV's Strictly Come Dancing after being paired with Red Dwarf star Danny John-Jules.

The Welsh-born 26-year-old took to social media on Sunday to tweet: "Thank you so much for all the lovely tweets, messages etc. I literally can't wait for strictly 2018."

Amy runs the Art in Motion Dance Academy in the town alongside partner Ben Jones, and took to the Strictly dancefloor with celebrity partner Brian Conley last year. The pair made it to week five before waltzing out of the contest.

Launch

During Saturday night's glitzy launch show the 15 celebrity contestants discovered who they will be taking to the dance floor with.

Londoner Danny, 57, who also acted in popular TV series Death in Paradise, joked about being an "honorary Welshy" following his pairing with the Caerphilly-born dance champion. Amy started dancing at the age of eight and went on to become British National Champion. She is also a four-time British National finalist and, in 2015, she reached the semi-final of the World Championship.

After the launch show Strictly takes a fortnight break from the screen as couples get busy in the training studio.



Dudley professional dancer Amy Dowden will partner Danny John-Jules

STOURBRIDGE MP Margot James has spoken of her hopes that travellers who moved onto a site in Withymoor Village will be moved on within days.

The Conservative MP said: "Work to remove the travellers has been ongoing since they arrived last week and this matter is now progressing through the courts.

"I am hopeful that the local authority can take possession of the site this week. I have complete sympathy with the residents of Withymoor, who have experienced this problem far too often in recent years."

The illegal encampment comes as planning approval to establish a transit travellers site for Dudley borough at Budden Lane in Coseley is being considered by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

When operational, the site would allow the police to direct encampments to the transit site within two hours or compel travellers to leave the borough altogether.

Occupying

Ms James added: "A transit site is the only effective way to stop travellers from occupying our parks and open spaces for days or weeks at a time. Other boroughs that have these sites have hardly seen any travellers this year, even at the transit sites themselves."

"I am working hard to support the council in setting up such a site and will be discussing this with my colleagues in Parliament."

Councillor Paul Bradley backed Ms James over Dudley Council's transit site plan, saying: "We need an active transit site in the borough to help authorities deliver the decisive evictions that local residents rightly expect and deserve in these circumstances."

Road scheme starts soon on Lye route

A £21,000 safety scheme will look to improve roads in Dudley.

The five-week scheme will see works taking place on Pedmore Road and Cemetery Road junction in Lye.

Work to the area of the A4036, where pedestrians frequently cross the road near the junction to access bus stops, is expected to start from September 24.

Dudley councillor Karen Shakespeare said: "We wanted to look at ways of helping people to cross the road more safely and also to discourage motorists from over-taking at a point where it is unsafe to do so. We are confident that this scheme will help."

"Keeping people safe and keeping the borough moving is a key priority for the council and I would like to thank people for their patience while we undertake these important works."

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Family wants answers over body near M-way

THE former partner of a delivery driver whose body was found by the M54 says she will continue the fight to discover what happened to him.

Surjit Singh Takhar was reported missing from his Oldbury home in October 2008.

His body was found dumped beside Junction 4 of the M54 at Shifnal in August 2015.

Lavina Sohl, from Willenhall, the ex-partner of the 37-year-old father-of-three, said: "I just need to know what has happened. My head cannot get around how did he just go missing?"

"How was he put there? He just wouldn't vanish. I still need answers. Please, I'm still begging, if anyone knows anything, please come forward." Ms Sohl said she does not know how her children, who live with her in Willenhall, can move forward. "They're absolutely brilliant, bright children but even me as an older person I can't get my head around it."

Ms Sohl added she thinks Mr Takhar's death was an accident. She said: "I've always said, whoever has killed him, I'm not saying they've gone out there to murder him. I think it was an accident, they panicked and placed him there and he was never supposed to be found."

Senior coroner for Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Council, John Ellery, gave an open conclusion at an inquest last week.

Three people were arrested and interviewed in December last year but released without charge.



Lavina Sohl, centre, with twin daughters Sohnay, left, and Sohnia Takhar

Man had keys to stolen cars

A MAN from Dudley has been arrested after police found him with crack cocaine, a meat cleaver and keys for several stolen cars.

Officers went to an address on Church Road in Nuneaton as part of a separate inquiry on August 30, but then found the 22-year-old acting suspiciously.

After searching him they seized a quantity of a drug believed to be crack cocaine, a meat cleaver, cash, and several mobile phones. Two car keys be-

longing to cars stolen from Coventry and Dudley were also seized.

The man was arrested on suspicion of possessing class A drugs with intent to supply, but has been released under investigation while inquiries continue.

Detective Sergeant Chris Cook said: "There is no doubt the harmful affect drug dealing has on our communities. Our message is clear: we are committed to tackling the supply of drugs and we will target anyone we suspect is involved in dealing."

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This half would then NOT be included in any future means test calculations for care fees. The surviving spouse is free to sell their share of the home, raise cash or move house. Your children are powerless to intervene but simply have to wait for their inheritance, as they would have done previously.

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Memorial cricket match in tribute to fan Bobo

RIVAL football fans put their differences aside to pay tribute to a 'gentle giant' Wolves fan in a memorial cricket match.

Wolves and Baggies supporters came together in memory of Gary 'Bobo' Hackett, who died suddenly last month.

The father from Old Hill passed away at the age of 53 last month. Earlier this month a memorial event was organised at Old Hill Cricket Club with hundreds turning up throughout the day.

The final amount is anticipated to have raised £6,000 for his family and towards his funeral.

Gold

Friends and family of Gary let off gold and black smoke bombs on the day – filling the sky with the famous colours of his beloved club.

Wayne Dickinson, a committee member at Old Hill Cricket Club and friend of Gary for more than three decades, helped organise the event.

The 49-year-old, from Old Hill, said: "He was a gentle giant. I've never known a lad so strong in my life. He was just a really nice bloke, which shows when that many people turned up."

"He was a big Wolves fan. Albion won the cricket on the day but it's just one of those things. There were a lot of Albion fans there 'cause a lot of his mates supported them. He was a big character."

"We normally have a Help for Heroes cricket match but because of the shock death we decided to have a match for him. It went really well. I've spoken to people who reckon there was between 800 and 1,000 there."



Gold and black flares were set off as fans united in tribute to 'Bobo' Hackett



Wolves fan Gary 'Bobo' Hackett – a big character with lots of friends

"I've got a rough idea of how much we raised and its around £6,000, which will go towards his funeral and to help his family out."

Gary's son Bo Hackett was at the event to pay tribute to his father, who worked as a carpenter and general builder.

A crowdfunding page has also been launched following his death, rais-

ing £900 in his memory in less than a week – www.justgiving.com/crowd-funding/emma-cartwright-2

Mr Dickinson added: "Rivalry goes out the window for something like this. The atmosphere on the day was brilliant. We live in an area where there's Albion, Wolves and Villa fans so there was loads there. It was a superb day and a great tribute to him."

OPEN DAY EVENTS

Thursday 20th September 6pm-8.30pm
Saturday 22nd September 9am-12pm

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Perryfields' progress – with more fantastic GCSE results

Commercial feature

AFTER weeks of anxious waiting, students and staff at Perryfields High School are celebrating yet another set of fantastic GCSE results.

Tears of joy could be heard across the school during the morning of Thursday, August 23, as the students received their results, after making the journey in to the Oldacre Road School, in Oldbury.

Despite tougher exams, attainment and progress levels remain high, especially in English and mathematics, with each department achieving a set of results to be proud of.

The excellent results are testament to all of the hard work and commitment the students have put in over the past five years, combined with the continued support from dedicated staff, parents, carers and governors.

Important

Amid the celebration, three students stood out for achieving particular high marks – Sophie Blackwell achieved five grade 9s and four grade 8s, and Jack Lu and Luke Williams both achieved seven grade 9s and two grade 8s.

On collecting his results, Jack Lu confirmed just how important the day was for the students. He explained: "When I picked up the envelope I was shaking so, so much, but now, I am simply overwhelmingly happy!"

Ian Barton, headteacher, said: "This year the students have sat some very challenging and rigorous GCSE exams, so to come out with such incredible



Another successful year of exams at Perryfields High School

grades is fantastic. The results show the hard work, effort and dedication that the students put into preparing for the exam season, and I am very proud of them all.

"Perryfields continues to go from strength to strength and I am looking forward to the new academic year and building on our current successes."

The school would like to congratulate all students and wish them the very best of luck in the future.



Jack Lu – 'overwhelmingly happy'



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OPEN DAYS:

Thursday 13th September 2018

Tuesday 18th September 2018

Thursday 4th October 2018

9.00am – 10.15am

OPEN EVENING:

Thursday 20th September 2018

6.00pm – 8.00pm

(all welcome, no appointments required)

Presentation by the Headteacher at 6.00pm and 6.45pm

Headteacher – Mr I.Barton
Oldacre Road, Oldbury, West Midlands B68 0RG
T: 0121 421 7979 E: admin@perrys.org.uk
www.perryfieldshigh.sandwell.sch.uk



Students surpassed expectations, with many achieving GCSE results in the top 2.5% of the country

Surpassing all expectations

Commercial feature

St Michael's Church of England High School in Rowley Regis celebrated the 2018 Year 11 cohort's brilliant GCSE results last month.

Students surpassed expectations, with many achieving results in the top 2.5% of the country.

Headteacher Mrs Gray said: "I feel privileged to lead a team of staff who consistently demonstrate an unfailing commitment to the young people in our care and have witnessed the growing pride that students are taking in their appearance, their school and their achievements.

"I was delighted to have this confirmed in November 2017, when St Michael's was once again judged to be Good by Ofsted, with Pupils' Personal Development and Welfare rated as Outstanding.

"St Michael's motto is 'Work together, learn together, achieve together'.

Students are committed to the school's core Christian values: to show love, care and kindness to all in the community. To value what we have and to share with others. To enable everyone to achieve their full potential.

"Within this environment, they are able to enjoy the first-class facilities in a state-of-the-art building. The combination is obviously a successful one. This year has seen a number of initiatives focusing on students' personal development, welfare and safety, reflecting our Outstanding status in this field.

"These have included a number of anti-bullying events and the launch of an online counselling facility within school. Moreover, the four '21st Century Child' evenings held throughout the

year, around the challenges children and parents can experience in a world dominated by social media and technology, received acclaim from across the borough and beyond.

"Student Voice have continued their magnificent fundraising efforts, benefitting a number of causes. Several very successful trips and visits have taken place throughout the year, culminating in the summer Performing Arts trip to Italy."

The best way to appreciate the outstanding environment and wide range of opportunities available is to visit the school. Mrs Gray, the governing body, staff and students extend a warm welcome to prospective pupils and their parents at an Open Evening on Wednesday from 5.30pm to 8.30pm. Alternatively, school is also open to visitors on Thursday, September 20 from 9.30am to 2.30pm.

Statutory Inspection of Methodist and Anglican Schools, March 2015

OUTSTANDING

Pupils are smartly dressed, polite and courteous.

Ofsted GRADED GOOD

Pupils develop into confident, mature and articulate young people, very well prepared for life after school.

Ofsted GRADED GOOD

Teaching is consistently strong across subjects. Relationships in classrooms are warm and respectful.

Ofsted GRADED GOOD

We would like to invite prospective new students to our
Open Evening on Wednesday 19th September from 5.30pm to 8.30pm.
Alternatively the Open Day will be on Thursday 20th September from 9.30am to 2.30pm.

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Water firm plan backed by 84pc

SOUTH Staffs Water has submitted its latest business plan after more than 40,000 were consulted.

The plan for 2020 to 2025, entitled Making Water Count, which was submitted to Ofwat has been supported by 84 per cent of customers.

South Staffs Water has taken the challenging step of ensuring bills will not increase above a typical bill level of £144 per customer during 2020 to 25, delivering an 11 per cent real terms reduction.

To find out more about South Staffs Water's plan go to www.south-staffs-water.co.uk website.

Wedding show on way to NEC

PACKED full of stalls featuring everything from dresses to decorations – The National Wedding Show comes to Birmingham at the end of the month. Visitors will be able to see the latest bridal, hair and accessory trends come to life on the catwalk show which hosts outfits for the entire bridal party.

On top of this there will also be a number of vendors with information and products available, including venues, photographers, decorations, accessories and more, at the NEC from September 28 to 30.

The Inspiration Lab will give brides and grooms the opportunity to get involved with a selection of workshops.

Collectables and toys up for sale

A POPULAR toy fair is returning to the region on Sunday. Oak Park Active Living Centre in Coppice Road, Walsall Wood is staging the Toy and Train Collectors Fair, with doors opening from 10.30 to 3pm.

More than 80 tables will be offering a selection of collectable toys, old and new. There will be trains, commercials, buses, aircraft and cars, alongside action toys, Lego and jigsaws.

Admission price is £1.80 for adults or £1 for children.

Tipton canal festival marks its 10th event

THE tenth annual Tipton Canal and Community Festival is being held along the Birmingham Main Line Canal on September 22 and 23.

Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust will be running narrowboat trips as part of the event. There will be displays of historic working boats, vintage steam engines, a craft fair and floating traders. There is also live music and a fun dog show on the Sunday, from noon.

RAF Cosford receive freedom of borough

THE Mayor of Dudley is urging people to show their support for Royal Air Force personnel past and present at a special double celebration in the town on Sunday.

RAF Cosford will officially receive the Freedom of Dudley Borough during a special ceremony on the steps of the Council House at 10.30am.

Mayor Councillor Alan Taylor will officially present the freedom scroll

to Group Captain Tone Baker OBE, Station Commander of RAF Cosford, before more than 60 staff from the station march through the town "with swords drawn, bayonets fixed, colours flying, drums beating and bands playing".

The event, organised in partnership between Dudley Council and Dudley Royal Air Forces Association (RAFA), will also mark the Battle of Britain.

The event will begin at 10.15am with music from the RAF Cosford Voluntary Band before RAF Cosford march to the steps of the Council House for the ceremony. This will be followed by a parade through the town accompanied by cadets from six local air cadet squadrons.

The day will include a service at St Thomas and St Luke's Church (Top Church) which will pay tribute to

the heroes of the Second World War battle of the sky before a return parade through the town centre and the laying of wreaths at the cenotaph in Edmund Road, Dudley.

Councillor Taylor said: "We are proud of our strong links with the armed forces and are honoured that RAF Cosford will be accepting the honour of Freedom of the Borough of Dudley."

Bosses plan better bus services for Russells Hall

BUS services to Russells Hall Hospital are to be improved as part of a shake-up of services across Dudley borough.

Transport chiefs are keen to overhaul services and are planning changes over the next 12 months, a new report has revealed. It could lead to more bus services or improved routes by 2019.

The moves form part of the West Midlands Bus Alliance strategy with upgrading services to the town's hospital a key part of the plan.

Transport services are set to dramatically improve in the coming years with the bus station to undergo a major revamp and the Midland Metro to be extended into the town and to Merry Hill shopping centre.

Bosses are keen to bring about a cut in use of private vehicles with an increased emphasis on public transport and cycling.

A report compiled by West Midlands Combined Authority and Dudley Council promises better interchanges and a review of Dudley Bus Station and services accessing Russells Hall.

Dudley councillor Ken Finch said: "It's a long time coming. There are people who have to get buses into Dudley and then another to Russells Hall. It is necessary for people who have to visit friends and family three or four times a week. Not everybody has got their own transport."

Pete Bond, lead officer for the West Midlands Bus Alliance, said: "Russells Hall Hospital has been identified as one of the key locations as bus access is a priority for visitors and staff."

More than 650 oppose merger

HUNDREDS of residents are opposing a medical practice's plan to close one of its surgeries in Stourbridge.

The Three Villages Medical Practice Patient Participation Group has seen around 650 sign against proposals to close the Wollaston surgery.

Closure would see the practice merged with the main site at Stourbridge Health and Social Care Centre.

Practice manager Paula Collins said: "As a practice we are keen to understand the impact of this proposal before making a decision to submit an application to Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)."

"The CCG will then decide whether to accept this submission."

The final decision is due by October 19 after the consultation period ends on Wednesday, September 19.

Move to redraw the political map of region

Report by Alex Ross

THE proposed shake-up of the region's political map has finally been published.

The final draft of the Boundary Commission's report, slashing the number of MPs from 650 to 600, was published on Monday.

Under the changes, to be introduced in 2022, there will be two fewer Commons seats across a region which includes the Black Country and parts of Staffordshire and Wyre Forest.

The number of MPs for the area will drop from 19 to 17 – and one of the two will be a Dudley MP.

Elsewhere in the Black Country, Walsall and West Bromwich will also lose an MP. Wolverhampton will keep three seats.

In Dudley the north and south constituencies will combine, creating just one seat from Labour MP Ian Austin and Conservative MP Mike Wood's seats.

"How can you have people living in the town centre being represented by three different MPs?" asked Dudley North's Mr Austin.

The proposals were met with widespread opposition in Dudley when they were first revealed last October, with charities, businesses and faith groups speaking out against them.

However, Dudley South Conservative MP Mr Wood called on politicians to back the proposals when they go to a vote in the Commons. Mr Wood, who was first elected in 2015 and holds a majority of 7,730, said: "This should not be about politicians being concerned about protecting their majorities and looking out for their own seats."

Independent

"The review was very thorough and independent. It has taken on board the views of people from up and down the country."

"It is absolutely essential that each MP represents the same number of people, which is clearly not the case at the moment."

"It would take a very good reason not to adopt it, and quite frankly none of the reasons I have heard are good enough."

Ministers must secure the backing of Parliament if they want to push the plans through, but the Commons Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee has previously warned

THE CURRENT 19 SEATS

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------|-------------------------------|
| DUDLEY NORTH | 61,714 | IAN AUSTIN (LAB) |
| DUDLEY SOUTH | 61,368 | MIKE WOOD (CON) |
| STOURBRIDGE | 78,225 | MARKO JANIS (CON) |
| WALSALL AND ROWLEY REGIS | 67,656 | JAMES MORRIS (CON) |
| WALSALL NORTH | 65,483 | EDDIE HUGHES (CONS) |
| WALSALL SOUTH | 66,882 | VALERIE VAZ (LAB) |
| ALDRIDGE-BROWNHILLS | 76,634 | WENDY MORTON (CONS) |
| WOLVERHAMPTON NORTH EAST | 60,254 | EMMA REYNOLDS (LAB) |
| WOLVERHAMPTON SOUTH EAST | 61,781 | FATIMA NISAR (LAB) |
| WOLVERHAMPTON SOUTH WEST | 50,014 | ELEANOR SMITH (LAB) |
| WOLVERHAMPTON WEST | 50,014 | ELEANOR SMITH (LAB) |
| WOLVERHAMPTON EAST | 43,069 | TONI WATSON (LAB) |
| WEST BROMWICH WEST | 65,249 | ADRIAN BAILEY (LAB) |
| LAMMICK CHASE | 57,462 | AMANDA MILLING (CONS) |
| STAFFORD | 69,032 | JEREMY LEFROY (CONS) |
| SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE | 74,089 | GAVIN WILLIAMS (CONS) |
| STONE | 84,724 | SIR BILL CASBY (CONSERVATIVE) |
| LICHFIELD | 73,085 | MICHAEL FRASHER (CONS) |
| WYRE FOREST | 73,800 | MARK GARNIER (CONSERVATIVE) |

THE PROPOSED NEW 17 SEATS

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| DUDLEY | 75,295 |
| STOURBRIDGE | 75,342 |
| HALESOME AND ROWLEY REGIS | 77,651 |
| DARLINGTON AND TIPTON | 75,302 |
| WALSALL AND OSCOTT | 72,331 |
| ALDRIDGE, BROWNHILLS AND BLOOMFIELD | 76,572 |
| WOLVERHAMPTON EAST AND WILLENDALE | 77,038 |
| WOLVERHAMPTON SOUTH AND COSELEY | 73,852 |
| WOLVERHAMPTON WEST | 77,373 |
| WOLVERHAMPTON SOUTH | 70,226 |
| CANNOCK CHASE | 73,470 |
| STAFFORD | 77,570 |
| SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE | 72,132 |
| STONE-ON-TRENT SOUTH AND STONE | 73,842 |
| LICHFIELD | 75,778 |
| WYRE FOREST | 75,215 |

[View interactive map at expressandstar.com](http://expressandstar.com) to find out how your constituency is affected

the overhaul is unlikely to pass as some Tories, along with Labour, are opposed to the move.

MPs are set to vote on the changes – which are due to come in at the 2022 General Election – later this year.

In West Bromwich, Labour's deputy leader Tom Watson could have to battle against his Labour colleague Adrian Bailey to see who will contest the next election for the town.

In Walsall, the north and south constituencies will also combine meaning current town MPs Eddie Hughes, Conservative, and Valerie Vaz, Labour, could come up against each other.

The boundary changes also mean some towns will be moved to another constituency. Residents living in Willenhall will no longer come under Walsall, with the town moving to the Wolverhampton East and Willenhall constituency. Coseley, now under the Dudley constituency, will come under Wolverhampton South and Coseley.

The final recommendations from the boundary commission are largely unchanged from proposals set out last year.

Wolverhampton South West MP Eleanor Smith, who was elected last year, is one of many Labour MPs to oppose the changes. She said reducing the number of MPs weakens the role of Parliament.

Sam Hartley, secretary to the Boundary Commission for England, said: "We've travelled the country, taken account of over 35,000 public comments, and heard many impassioned views about how best to reflect local communities in our recommendations, while ensuring that constituencies are all much more equally represented."

"We're confident that the map we propose today is the best match of the legal rules Parliament has set us."

"It's now up to Parliament to decide whether these boundaries will be used at the next general election."

Black Country boatman is star of photo exhibition



Featuring in an exhibition about life on the canals, Dave Newell was pictured by photographer Kev Maslin, of Great Bridge, whose exhibition is at The Gunmakers Arms, Birmingham, until September 22. Mr Newell works at the Black Country Living Museum.

Abseiling challenge for children's charity

CAUDWELL Children, the Staffordshire-based charity that provides practical and emotional support to disabled children and their families, is looking for adrenaline junkies to sign up for a fundraising abseil in Birmingham.

The dizzying descent will take place on Saturday, September 22, at the Holiday Inn Express at Snow Hill.

Hannah Boote, Challenge Events Co-ordinator at Caudwell Children, said: "Whilst they can be thrilling and terrifying in equal measure, the fact that people have promised to donate helps participants make it over the ledge in this extreme challenge," she explained. "It's difficult to chicken out when you know that your daredevil actions will swell a charity's coffers. In this case it will help us to provide equipment, therapies and treatments to disabled children throughout Staffordshire."

One person who has completed a fundraising abseil on behalf of Caudwell Children is 28-year-old Vicky Glanville, from Stoke. She abseiled 30 metres down the front of the distinctive YMCA building in Stoke-on-Trent last year.

Vicky, an events assistant, said it was a fantastic experience. "Abseiling down the YMCA was brilliant, if not a little scary! You're supervised by experienced instructors for the entire duration of the event so I felt really safe. My friends were there, cheering me on, which meant so much."

Caudwell Children provide the funding support for services that can't access through statutory measures, so their work is vital for disabled children in this region. That's why I felt compelled to fundraise for them. Every single penny raised goes to the children that they support as all their administrative cost are covered by a beneficiary."

Hannah added: "Since 2000 Caudwell Children has supported over 25,000 disabled children and their families, and has provided over £39 million worth of services."

The registration fee is £25 and there is a minimum fundraising target of £70. Teams of five or more will be entered into a prize draw to win a voucher for another exciting challenge. You can register at www.caudwellchildren.com/abseil.

Is this the real life... Is this just fantasy?

HE'S the pint-sized rocker who has landed a part in the new John Lewis TV advert that is simply out of this world.

Nine-year-old Joseph Sheppard, from Dudley, is the star of the ad which sees youngsters turn their school production into a spaceaged take on Queen's Bohemian Rhapsody.

The Foxyards Primary School pupil is seen in the grand finale of the advert, playing the guitar in a rocket as it passes gobsmacked parents in the audience.

The youngster dons the white cape and jumpsuit look, made famous by guitar legend May in Queen's heyday, as he solos on a flying V guitar.

The advert first hit the screens during the Great British Bake Off on Channel 4 last week. The 90-second clip took a week to film, with a cast of more than 70.

Experience

Joseph – who has been playing guitar since he was seven and attends a guitar group at Netherton Arts Centre – also got to record the song live at a recording studio in London.

His proud mother Kay said: "It's been a really exciting experience for Joseph – we have been watching it over and over on YouTube since it was released."

"He's never done anything like this before. We just applied to audition for the School of Rock musical but we never expected anything to come out of it."

"We were contacted to attend and it turned out to be a workshop and then he was invited to attend again in March. We had an email to say because



Rock star – Dudley's Joseph Sheppard



Joseph in the finale of the advert



A famous shot from the Queen video

Joseph attended the workshop John Lewis are looking for musicians for their new advert. It was all really fast and we went to London on day to audition and there were hundreds of children there.

"We thought we had no chance as there were kids auditioning who had been on television before. We did the

audition and then he got a call back and there was just him and another boy – we were so shocked. It was phenomenal.

"The next time we went back there was only a handful of children there and we found out Joseph had got the part. I'm really over the moon and so proud of him."

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16 £100,000 Star Wars collection up for sale

A HUGE collection of Star Wars memorabilia is being sold in Dudley by Aston's Auctioneers and could fetch more than £100,000.

The collection is going under the hammer for the first time and one item is expected to land almost £2,000.

Aston's auctioneer and toy specialist, Kayleigh Davies, said: "We spent three days in Devon bringing this collection back to the Black Country and filled up a 7.5 ton lorry in the process."

Experts have tipped the most valuable item in the collection to be a rare Boba Fett action figure made by toy company Kenner. Still in its original box, the 3.7 inch toy is expected to be sold for up to £2,000.

The huge intergalactic collection was put together by an anonymous Star Wars enthusiast who has now decided to sell. There are more than 600 lots in the sale which is to take place at Aston's in Tower Street, Dudley, on Tuesday from 10am.

This sale is expected to challenge the current record for money made from a Star Wars auction after two ultra-rare Darth Vader and Obi-Wan Kenobi action figures sold for £101,000 in April at American auctioneers Hake's.

"The collection is an absolute treasure trove and has everything you can think of when it comes to Star Wars," said Kayleigh.

Leader against hostel proposal

THE leader of Dudley Council has revealed that he will not be supporting a controversial planning application for a 65-bedroom men's hostel in Coseley.

Council leader Patrick Harley said he would not give his backing to charity Expectations UK's bid to transform New Bridge House in Bayer Street into a rehabilitation centre for men over the age of 25, excluding those with arson or serious sexual convictions.

At a meeting with campaign group Coseley Focus, he said that as a resident of the borough himself he would not want to see the development go ahead but he stressed that the decision did not rest with him.

He added: "There is no need in the borough for a facility of this kind."

Nish at town hall

COMEDIAN Nish Kumar is to bring his touring show to Dudley in the new year. The 33-year-old comic, who presents The Mash Report will be at Dudley Town Hall on February 15. Tickets costing £22.50.

X marks the TV spot for sandwich bar singers

CHEFS from a sandwich shop in Oldbury sang to millions on Saturday night as they made their starring debut in the X Factor TV advert break.

The Hayer family, who own the Crusty Cottage bakery in Bleakhouse Road, belted out the tunes in the Just Eat adverts - as the takeaway ordering company sponsored the ITV television programme.

They blew the judges away with their stellar rendition of Dynamite by Taio Cruz, and were quickly invited to London to record their performance in a studio, before finally being handpicked for the final line-up.

And they're no strangers to performing. With Crusty Cottage a family-owned business, they regularly entertain customers together by singing and dancing to the radio throughout the day.

The ad breaks saw them sing Down with the Trampets by Rizzle Kicks, complete with glamorous backing dancers.

Charanjit Hayer, senior chef at Crusty Cottage, said: "I feel so blessed to have been chosen to be part of Just Eat's X Factor ads. To be part of this experience with my family is the cherry on top."

"We're all born and bred in Oldbury and it's a close-knit community, so we're excited to put Crusty Cottage and Oldbury on the map."

The Hayers family, from the Crusty Cottage in Oldbury, were featured on the Just Eat TV ads



The Hayers family, from the Crusty Cottage in Oldbury, were featured on the Just Eat TV ads

Maria on cue for charity tribute to father



Maria Catalano is hoping to raise £2,000

A SNOOKER star from Dudley will be braving a head shave on the eve of a major tournament later this month in support of a cancer charity.

World number three Maria Catalano is undertaking the challenge in memory of her father Antonio, who died following a battle with the disease this year.

The player, from Netherton, has been overwhelmed by the support she has received since announcing her decision.

"My reasoning for this is all about saying thank you," she said. "I'm not

going to say I'm not scared because I am, but there are always woolly words and hopefully my Italian roots will make my hair grow back quickly.

"I want to turn my heartbreak into a positive and give something back and just to raise awareness of the great man my dad was."

Championship

She is hoping to raise £2,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support through the shave on Tuesday, September 18, before the LITEtask UK Women's Snooker Championship.

Catalano, who earlier this year reached the final of the 2018 World Women's Championship final in Malta, is the cousin of five-time world professional champion Ronnie O'Sullivan, who has given his backing to her fundraising venture.

He said: "Antonio was my uncle and I used to spend a lot of time up there when I was younger. He was the kindest, most gentle, lovely human being you can imagine meeting."

To sponsor Maria visit the website bravetheshave.macmillan.org.uk/shavers/maria-catalano

NEWS IN BRIEF

Floating market at boat festival

A FLOATING market will be among the attractions at the 33rd Black Country Boating Festival in Netherton at the weekend.

The event is being held at Bumblehole Nature Reserve, Windmill End, on Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 5pm.

There will also be boat trips, a fun fair and live music.

The Saturday will see a classic car display and the Sunday a fun dog show.

There will be free parking and free admission at the festival which is expected to attract boaters from all over the country.

Roof death fall victim is named

A MAN who fell to his death from the roof of an industrial unit has been named.

Maciej Rozanski suffered a cardiac arrest after falling from the building in Deepdale Lane in Lower Gornal on June 29. The 42-year-old, who lived locally, was pronounced dead at the scene.

An inquest was opened at the Black Country Coroners Court in Oldbury on July 24 and will resume on September 24.

The Health and Safety Executive was informed of the incident.

Early interest in new homes plots

MORE than 200 people queued up for a chance to be among the first to reserve a plot at Taylor Wimpey's latest development in the Black Country, where they are building 209 homes in Rowley Regis.

Fairfields was launched on August 25 and one couple arrived at 6am, five hours before the sales office opened, to reserve their plot.

Elaine Cartwright, sales and marketing director for Taylor Wimpey West Midlands, said: "We knew there was a lot of demand for new homes in and around Rowley Regis."

Free swim sessions prove a huge success

THOUSANDS of children took advantage of free swimming in Dudley Council-run leisure centres over the school summer holidays.

More than 14,000 youngsters took a dip with nearly 30,000 visits in total to the three borough leisure centres - Dudley, Halesowen and Crystal Leisure Centre in Stourbridge - over the six-week period. Council bosses announced the initiative in July to encourage youngsters to keep fit.



An artist's impression of the Black Country Institute of Transformational Technologies in Dudley

Evicted travellers move to nearby site

TRAVELLERS evicted on Wednesday drove down the road and occupied another site within hours.

Some 30 caravans on Woodside Park near Netherton were forced to move by Dudley Council officers after nearly two weeks. But within hours they had relo-

cated to private land off Turner Lane in Withymoor.

Last week council leader Councillor Patrick Harley said when the borough's dedicated site for travellers is up and running those on unauthorised camps will have just two hours to move or get out of the borough.

He said the latest incident showed the need for the controversial council-run site in Coseley, which is awaiting the go-ahead from the Government.

He added: "This brings into focus the benefits of the proposed temporary transit site for travellers within the borough."

Big cat's birthday treat 'mite surprise'

A MAGNIFICENT Sumatran tigress at Dudley Zoo has celebrated her eighth birthday with her favourite treat - Marmite!

Popular big cat Daseep had visitors queuing up to wish her well on her special day on Monday, and she had her birthday treat to herself as her male companion Joao is no fan of the yeast extract food spread.

Daseep is ranked as the second most important female in the genetic species pool, and has been at the Castle Hill attraction since she about 18 months old after transferring from Germany. She was born in Frankfurt Zoo.

Senior Big Cat Keeper, Sarah Evans, said: "Daseep is a real favourite at Dudley



and it be going under the hammer in an auction run by wildlife conservation campaign Explorers Against Extinction. A semi-professional artist living in Bromsgrove, though originally from Cradley, 58-year-old David made sketches at the zoo.

Officer apprehends a slippery character



Ssssssurprise! PC Andy Kitson with the snake he rescued in West Bromwich

A SNAKE found behind a Black Country fire station was rescued by police and is now being cared for in Dudley.

West Midlands Police officer PC Andy Kitson rescued the reptile from Hargate Lane in West Bromwich. The four-foot long non-venomous kingsnake was found behind West Bromwich Fire Station just before 9am last Tuesday.

A West Midlands Police spokesperson said: "PC Andy Kitson had an unusual start to his day as he rescued a snake from West Brom, Hargate Lane just before 9am, after a large snake was found to be roaming around behind the fire station."

The kingsnake, which is a type of snake most commonly kept as a pet, has since been taken in by the Proteus Reptile Trust centre in Dudley.

Amy Taranaski, centre co-ordinator, confirmed the animal would be placed up for adoption if no owner came forward within a fortnight.

Bragging gang swap luxury lives for prison

THEY enjoyed a lavish lifestyle of luxury holidays and flash cars funded by illegal guns. But the Black Country gang are behind bars after their crooked operation was exposed.

The gang had imported blank-firing pistols, converting them into potentially deadly weapons and sold them to the criminal underworld. Ring leader Carlington Grant – known as Mad Dog – and his girlfriend Khianna Lewis, from Brierley Hill, lived off the sales of pistols and blank cartridges shipped in from France, which made them an estimated £100,000-plus a month.

A middleman, Jermaine Dornan, photographed piles of bank notes.

Surveillance

The racket was smashed after a surveillance operation on members of an Albanian cocaine gang recorded a gun deal taking place. Two replica pistols and converted ammunition were linked to Grant's workshop in West Bromwich.

Father-of-nine Grant, whose WhatsApp profile name was Mad Dog, bragged about his lifestyle, posing with expensive cars. Both Grant and Dornan were arrested in armed police raids in December, while Lewis

By Marion Brennan

was stopped at Gatwick Airport in January returning from a holiday in Jamaica.

After a trial at Birmingham Crown Court, a jury convicted Grant, 41, Lewis, 34, and Dornan, 30.

Grant, of Johnson Street, Wolverhampton, was jailed for a total of 26 years for conspiracy to supply firearms, import weapons and acquiring ammunition. Lewis, of Columbus Gardens, got 17 years for conspiracy to supply firearms, import handguns, and possession of ammunition. Dornan, of Temple Street, Bilston, was jailed for nine years for conspiracy to supply firearms and possession of cannabis with intent to supply.

'Gobsmacked' Kemp says show is a wake-up call

TV star Ross Kemp hopes his new documentary about the rise in gun crime will be a 'wake up call'.

Donning the same body armour he wore in Iraq, Kemp was on the streets of Birmingham as armed police battered down doors, made arrests and discovered deadly weapons in a hard-hitting ITV documentary which aired last Thursday.

Ross Kemp and the Armed Police provided an insight into gun crime in the UK which has increased by 20 per cent since 2017.

He joined West Midlands Police in Birmingham because the city has more firearms incidents per head than anywhere else in the UK.

With exclusive interviews with gun smugglers, gangs, police and victims, he addressed issues including dwindling police numbers and knife crime among young people in the action-packed show.

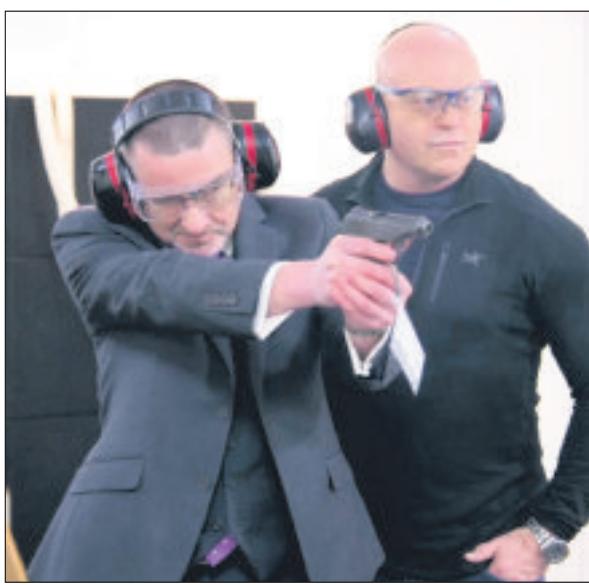
During the documentary, police stated how they had to send officers out to gun-related crimes every day while criminals, hiding behind masks and technology to alter their voices, claim they were lured into committing crimes from as young as 13 onwards.

The EastEnders hard man tweeted after the show, expressing his disbelief with what happens on the streets.

During a live question and answer session, viewer Tom Barry asked: "What emotions were you going through during this interview?"

He replied: "I think I was gobsmacked for most of it. I couldn't believe it was happening in my country. It has to be a wake up call for all of us."

The show, which was a year in



Ross Kemp with lead forensic scientist Martin Parker during the programme the making, created a buzz on social media.

One person tweeted: "Excellent view so far of the threat from firearms & the bravery and professionalism of UK armed police. A very specialised role where every officer volunteers to carry a gun."

There are 20,000 fewer officers in the UK than 2010 and the number of police with firearms had increased to combat the terrorist threat. The gravity of the situation hit home as Chief Inspector Danny Delaney, who runs the firearms unit, admitted officers are sent out to gun-related crimes every day.

With apathy, gun smugglers admitted how easy it was to import firearms from America, how they do not feel concerned about its impact and how they are trapped in the lifestyle.

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AT YOUR LEISURE

Canadian comic tops triple bill

Canadian comic Tom Stade will feature on a triple bill for the opening night of a new stand-up comedy show in Halesowen that is looking likely to sell out.

Stade, probably most famous for his routine about a Bilton market meat van, has appeared on the likes of Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow and the John Bishop Show.

He has built up a cult following since moving to the UK and will take centre stage at Comedy at the Cornbow on Saturday – a new comedy night at Cornbow Hall.

Also on the bill will be the laconic Alun Cochrane, as seen on Mock the Week, Have I Got News For You and 8 Out of 10 Cats, and Brummie comic Jo Enright, who starred in ITV sitcom The Job Lot and Phoenix Nights. It will be hosted by Dudley's Wayne Beese, resident MC for the new shows, which are hoped will run quarterly from 2019.

Wayne said: "We are really excited to be launching a new night in Halesowen. We already run nights in Dudley, Stourbridge and Brierley Hill but as far as I am aware there are no regular comedy nights at all in Halesowen, so we are hoping they will prove popular."

"Cornbow Hall is a great setting for comedy and we have genuinely got three of the best live stand-ups in the country. They are all very different too, so it promises to be a brilliant opening night."

Doors and bar will be open from 7.30pm.

Arctic Monkeys – two sold out shows at Birmingham



Catchy pop of world's best kisser

If you like Beck or Prince, lend an ear to quirky American singer-songwriter Darwin Deez.

He has just released his lovesick fourth album 10 Songs That Happened When You Left Me With My Stupid Heart. The first single is The World's Best Kisser, harmonizer distorted and infectious. His UK tour ends at Birmingham's O2 Institute on October 11.

Texan rockers White Denim mine 1970s influences and come up with gold nuggets on their seventh album Performance, which harks back to the era of Little Feat and the Steve Miller Band. Check out It Might Get Dark and Backseat Driver. They've announced a UK tour for 2019 including the O2 Institute in Digbeth on February 13.

Psychedelic Scousers The Vryll Society slightly disappoint with their debut album Course of the Satellite, which meanders too much when they need the focus shown on best track, Shadow Of A Wave. Catch them at The Actress and Bishop in Moseley Road, Birmingham, on October 12.

Stone Foundation had special guests involved in their album Everybody Anyone, including Paul Weller and his former fellow Style Council member Mick Talbot. The Midlands outfit, who play Coventry Empire on October 25, draw on 70s soul influences for their fifth studio album. Kathryn Williams duets with Neil Jones on Don't Walk Away, while Average White Band's Hamish Stuart brings the funk for Only You Can. The soulful standout is Belief.

We upset people

Arctic Monkeys will return to Birmingham for two sell-out shows at the city's Arena on Saturday and Sunday.

The shows follow the release in spring of their sixth album, Tranquility Base Hotel & Casino, which was a number one hit in the UK, and much of Europe as well as cracking the top 10 in the USA.

The record continued a remarkable run of form for the Yorkshire rock band, who formed in 2002 and have won seven Brit Awards – winning both Best British Group and Best British Album three times – while also being

nominated for three Grammy Awards after taking the Mercury Prize in 2006 for their debut album, Whatever People Say I Am, That's What I'm Not.

The record was a major departure for the Sheffield outfit, who considered releasing it as an Alex Turner solo album at one point. The 32-year-old Turner had started writing songs on his piano, enjoying the freedom that gave him.

He took his songs to members of the band, who thought they might become a side project for him as a solo artist, rather than feature under the Arctic Monkeys banner.

The singer and songwriter has also been

co-frontman of The Last Shadow Puppets with Miles Kane, who released albums in 2008 and 2016.

Guitarist Jamie Cook said: "I think at first, because it was quite basic – piano, vocal and no guitar – Al was in two minds about, 'is this Arctic Monkeys or am I going somewhere else with this?' And maybe at first I was a bit like that as well. It's not definitely not a guitar-heavy record, not typically what we'd do. It took a lot more thinking about."

Jamie added that the band were braver than they'd been before when they went in to record the new album: "We were kind of fearless. We definitely upset people."

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

High standard of food and ales

The Island Pool is a classic country pub serving not only a high standard of food but great traditional ales.

A spokesman said: "We have to offer, a carvery with a choice freshly roasted meats accompanied by a wide variety of fresh locally sourced vegetables.

"Alongside our carvery, we have an extensive menu with a range of foods to suit any and every palate. We are proud to offer exquisite beef steaks, also sourced locally, and are all cooked to perfection.

"Sumptuous breakfast, tasty lunch and sexy dinners. Stop by for our varied menu and enjoy our farm to table concept."

The pub is open daily between Sunday and Friday, from 12pm and 8pm and Saturday from 12noon to 9pm.

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between 8.30am and 11am. The spokesman added: "Whether it's brunch, lunch or dinner you're joining us for call the number shown

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AT YOUR LEISURE

Michael and Brian D'Addario



Brothers' concept album is pure monkey business

Equal parts brilliant and barmy, New York band The Lemon Twigs have delivered a rock musical about a chimpanzee who attempts to fit in with human society but ends up burning down his high school.

One can safely say no one was expecting that from the D'Addario brothers, the creative core of The Lemon Twigs, who made a big

impression with their Do Hollywood debut, a glorious amalgam of 1970s style rock songs and ballads.

But perhaps a musical is not such a leap because, as well as growing up on their musician father's record collection, both Brian and Michael D'Addario are Broadway brats who appeared in shows.

Go To School, the new album, also has a 70s vibe with guest appearances from the brothers' parents, Ronnie D'Addario and Susan Hall, plus one of their musical heroes,

Todd Rundgren. Given its subject matter, it is suitably bananas.

The group's celebrity fans include Elton John and Alex Turner, the latter having invited The Lemon Twigs to support his Arctic Monkeys on their sold out UK tour, including gigs at Arena Birmingham on Saturday and Sunday.

Once seen never forgotten, The Lemon Twigs will be back to headline in their own right at Birmingham's O2 Institute on February 26.

Pub set to host four days of top class comedy

TV comics Lost Voice Guy and Angelos Epithemou will take centre stage when a Black Country pub hosts its second four-day comedy festival.

The duo are among 13 professional acts who will perform as part of Fitz Fest 2, which will be held in the marquee at Katie Fitzgerald's in Wollaston, Stourbridge, from November 8 to 11.

It follows a successful debut event in June at the pub, where comics including Paul Sinha and Seann Walsh performed to more than 400 people over the weekend.

Britain's Got Talent winner Lost Voice Guy is headlining the opening night, which has already sold out.

Burger van owner Angelos, who

appeared on Shooting Stars and went on to have his own TV series, will headline on November 10.

Tez Ilyas, who has already appeared on Mock The Week and Man Like Mobeen, will headline November 9.

Closing the festival on November 11 will be Paul Tonkinson, former host of C4's The Big Breakfast.

Two support acts will appear on each bill, with all nights hosted by resident MC Wayne Beeze, from Dudley.

The four-day extravaganza is being put on by organisers of the pub's monthly Fitz of Laughter Comedy Club and tickets are for the remaining three shows cost £15 per show plus booking fees. Go to skiddle.com/e/13305056



Angelos Epithemou

Ex-EastEnder gets a starring role in Annie

Former EastEnder Anita Dobson will star as Miss Hannigan in a production of the musical Annie coming to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre in February.

As Angie Watts is EastEnders, Anita Dobson created one of the most popular characters in television, winning numerous awards.

Her West End theatre credits include Madame Morrible in Wicked, Mama Morton in Chicago, Mrs Meers in Thoroughly Modern Millie, Chris in Calendar Girls, Joan Crawford in Bette and Joan and Nancy in Frozen at the National Theatre for which she was nominated for an Olivier, Evening Standard and London Critics Award.

Set in 1930s New York during The Great Depression, the popular musical is about the loveable young orphan who will not be downhearted despite the best efforts of the horrid Miss Hannigan. The show includes the popular songs It's the Hard Knock Life, Easy Street and Tomorrow.

Annie is directed by Nikolai Foster and will run from February 19 to 23 at the Grand, see grandtheatre.co.uk or call 01902 429212 for tickets.

Spear still very much alive after 35 years

New wave rock icon Kirk Brandon is marking 35 years as lead singer of Spear of Destiny with a UK tour, which opens at Wolverhampton Slade Rooms on Thursday, September 20.

Spear of Destiny were actually his third band, he had originally been singer with punk band The Pack before hitting the big time with Theatre Of Hate.

The current line up of Spear is the longest serving to date and features Adrian Portas (ex-New Model Army), Craig Adams (Sisters of Mercy/The Cult/The Mission) and Phil Martini (Jim Jones and the Righteous Mind) on drums. Long-time Brandon cohort Steve Allan-Jones is on keyboards. Spear, best known for 1987 hit Never Take Me Alive, released their 14th studio album, Tontine, earlier this year after it was funded by pre-sale orders from fans.

The current live show pulls on songs from all 35 years including fans' favourites Liberator, Mickey, Rainmaker, and The Wheel, and there will be special focus on the band's debut album from 1983, Grapes of Wrath.

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COMMERCIAL FEATURE

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SATURDAY'S TV SEPTEMBER 15

CHOICE



Jodie Comer

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live.** **11.30 Nadiya's Family Favourites.** **(R) 12.00 Football Focus.** **1.00 BBC News:** Weather. **1.15 Roving:** World Championships. Live coverage of the event from Plovdiv, Bulgaria. **2.45 Triathlon:** Women's World Series Grand Final. **4.15 Final Score.** **5.15 BBC News:** **5.25 Regional Programme.** **5.30 Impossible Celebrities.**

6.20 Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present a star-studded version of the general knowledge quiz, with contestants Rowland Rivron, Simon Day, Hal Cruttenden, Zoe Lyons, Jari Ravens, Stephen K Amos, Rich Hall and Sara Pascoe.

7.10 Strictly: The Best. Some of the best-loved celebrity dancers from the past 15 series share their Strictly Come Dancing experiences. From the sequins to the spray tans, the mishaps to the melt-downs, they look back at some of the most iconic moments in Strictly history, and share hilarious and exclusive memories from their time in the ballroom.

8.25 Casualty. Iain returns to work, but there is a frosty atmosphere between him and Ruby. Whilst on a call Iain comes across an unconscious base, and when he awakes Base explains he got kicked out the flat as it was Mia's. Elsewhere, David and Ciara fight over Dylan, and Alicia admits to Ethan that she is not ready for a relationship.

9.15 Killing Eve. New series. A desk-bound MI5 security officer finds herself on a collision course with a psychopathic assassin known as Villanelle. Spy thriller, based on Luke Jennings' Codename Villanelle novella series and adapted for television by Phoebe Waller-Bridge (Fleabag). Starring Sandra Oh, Jodie Comer, Fiona Shaw, Kim Bodnia, Kirby Howell-Baptiste, Owen McDonnell, David Haig, Darren Boyd, Remo Girone and Edyta Budnik.

10.00 BBC News: Weather; National Lottery Update.

10.20 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Tottenham Hotspur v Liverpool, Manchester City v Fulham and Watford v Manchester United.

11.45 The NFL Show. Mark Chapman is joined by former players Osi Umenyiora and Jason Bell to present highlights of Thursday night's game, Cincinnati Bengals v Baltimore Ravens at Paul Brown Stadium.

12.15 Weather for the Week Ahead.

12.20 BBC News.

BBC2

6.30 Top Class. (R) **7.00 Marrying Mum and Dad.** (R) **7.30 Officially Amazing Goes Bankers.** (R) **8.00 The Denegeers.** (R) **8.30 Absolute Genius with Dick & Dom.** (R) **9.00 Planet Dinosaur.** (R) **9.30 Elephant Diaries.** (R) **10.00 The Animal's Guide to Britain.** (R) **11.00 Natural World.** (R) **12.00 Nigel Slater: Eating Together.** (R) **12.30 Great British Menu.** (R) **2.45 Womans Under the Hammer.** (R) **3.30 Scrappers – Back in the Yard.** (R) **4.00 Saving Lives at Sea.** (R) **5.00 Trust Me, I'm a Doctor.** (R) **5.30 Ancient Invisible Cities.** (R)

6.30 Dad's Army. Mainwaring and the platoon are assigned to guard a vital telephone line through the night, but wake to find an unexploded bomb caught in the wires. Comedy, starring Arthur Lowe. (R)

7.00 Film: This Beautiful Fantastic. (2016) Premiere. A young woman who dreams of being a children's author forges an unlikely friendship with a cantankerous, rich old widower, as well as his housekeeper and an inventor who frequents the library where she works. Fantasy drama, starring Tom Burke, Jessica Brown Findlay, Tom Wilkinson, Andrew Scott and Jeremy Irvine.

8.30 Princess Margaret: The Rebel Royal. Part one of two. Documentary profiling the Queen's sister, whose life and loves reflected the social and sexual revolution that transformed Britain during the 20th century. With archive footage and interviews, the series follows Margaret's life as she redefined the image of the modern princess, and begins with her birth in 1930. The abdication of her uncle propelled Margaret to second in line to the throne, but her life would be shaped by dramatic social change as Britain entered a more egalitarian era after the Second World War. (R)

9.30 Live at the Apollo. Ed Byrne presents stand-up comedy from the Hammersmith Apollo in west London, introducing sets by Angela Barnes and Geoff Norcott. (R)

10.00 Film: Three Summers. (2017) Premiere. Romantic comedy, starring Robert Sheehan.

11.40 Film: Mean Streets. (1973) **1.30 Trust.** (R) **2.30 This Is BBC Two.**

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dana. **6.10 Super 4.** (R) **6.25 Super 4.** (R) **6.35 Make It Pop.** (R) **6.55 Signed Stories: Share a Story.** (R) **7.00 Om Nom Stories.** (R) **7.05 Mr Bean: The Animated Series.** (R) **7.15 Mr Bean: ToonMarty.** (R) **7.40 ToonMarty.** (R) **7.55 Thunderbirds Are Go.** (R) **8.25 Spy School.** (R) **8.55 The Haunted Hathaways.** (R) **9.25 ITV News: 9.30 James Martin's Saturday Morning.** **11.40 The Island Strait.** (R) **12.10 ITV News: Weather.** **12.25 The X Factor.** (R) **1.30 ITV Racing:** Live at Doncaster, including coverage of the final day of the St Leger meeting at Doncaster. **4.00 WOS Wrestling.** **5.00 ITV News: Weather.** **5.20 Regional Programme:** Weather. **5.30 Film:** Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets. (2002) Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Daniel Radcliffe.

8.25 The X Factor. The SSE Arena Wembley is the location as the audition rounds continue in the talent contest, hosted by Dermot O'Leary. Judges Robbie Williams, Ayda Williams, Louis Tomlinson and Simon Cowell decide who goes through to the Six Chair Challenge, before the competition really heats up later in the year with the live shows.

9.40 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host is joined by actor Martin Clunes, who stars as Sir Pitt Crawley in ITV's lavish new period drama Vanity Fair. British sprinter Dina Asher-Smith, who won three gold medals at the recent European Athletics Championships in Berlin, also drops by, along with singer-songwriter Josh Groban and comedian Leigh Francis, in character as the unpredictable Celebrity Juice presenter Keith Lemon. There is also music by Irish singer Hozier, who is performing on British TV for the first time since 2015.

10.45 ITV News: Weather.

11.00 Play to the Whistle. Holly Willoughby hosts the sports-based comedy panel show, in which two teams go head to head in quizzes and physical games. (R)

11.45 WOS Wrestling. Spectacular wrestling action with the stars of WOS. Presented by Rachel Stricker, with commentary from Stu Bennett, Alex Shane and SoCal Val. (R)

12.35 Goodwood Revival. **1.25 Jackpot247.** **3.00 Long Lost Family.** (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.20 The King of Queens. **R 6.45 The King of Queens.** (R) **7.10 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **8.30 Frasier.** (R) **9.30 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **10.25 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **10.55 Formula 1 Singapore Grand Prix Practice 3 Live.** **12.25 F1 Meets David Coulthard.** (R) **12.55 Formula 1 Singapore Grand Prix Qualifying Live:** Coverage of the Singapore Grand Prix qualifying session. Start-time 2.00pm). **3.45 Car SOS.** (R) **4.45 The People's Vet.** **5.45 Escape to the Chateau: DIY.** (R)

6.40 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Britain at Low Tide. Tori Hirdire continues her mission to chart Britain's rich maritime history via state-of-the-art technology. This time, she visits Dorset, where she tells the story of the world's first aircraft carriers. The team also reveals the crucial role the Dorset coastline played in D-Day. (R)

8.00 Hannibal's Elephant Army: The New Evidence. Scientists search for traces of the Carthaginian general's journey across the Alps with an army that included 40,000 men, 9000 cavalry and 37 elephants, a challenge that involved traversing mountains, raging rivers and the territory of hostile tribes. New evidence found in the rocky soil of the mountain range offers clues to the specific details of the trek. Palaeobiologist Dr Tori Hirdire reveals why elephants are surprisingly good at mountain climbing, while historian Dr Eve MacDonald examines the motivations that drove Hannibal to make his seemingly impossible journey. (R)

9.00 Film: Daddy's Home. (2015) Premiere. A mild-mannered man hopes for his wife's two children to view him as their father. His dreams of perfect family life are threatened by the return of their biological father, a charismatic, motorcycle-riding tough guy, and he pulls out all the stops to prove to his stepchildren that he can be just as cool. Comedy, starring Will Ferrell and Mark Wahlberg.

10.50 Film: X-Men: The Last Stand. (2006) Superhero sequel, starring Hugh Jackman and Ian McKellen.

12.45 Film: The Master. (2012) **3.05 Hollyoaks.** (R) **5.15 Grand Designs Australia.** (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** (R) **10.35 The Wonderful World of Puppies.** (R) **11.20 Police Interceptors.** (R) **12.20 Police Interceptors.** (R) **1.20 Police Interceptors.** (R) **2.20 Bad Tenants.** Rogue Landlords. (R) **3.20 Bad Tenants.** Rogue Landlords. (R) **4.20 Rich House, Poor House.** (R) **5.20 5 News Weekend.** **5.25 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!** (R)

6.20 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! The debt collectors take action to serve a writ issued for the organiser of a music festival. (R)

7.05 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! Max and Steve head to London to try to recover more than £21,000 in court costs. Aron and Cona chase almost £7,000 owed after a debtor failed to repay a loan to her ex-partner. (R)

8.00 Secrets of Underground Britain. Engineer Rob Bell goes on a subterranean adventure as he explores the buried feats of engineering on which the nation relies, amazing natural wonders and the hidden places the general public was never meant to see. He begins in Scotland, where he examines the gruesome secrets of the mysterious Sculptor's Cave near Lossiemouth in Moray, before heading to Argyll and Bute to visit a hydroelectric power station. Dr Tori Hirdire reveals why elephants are surprisingly good at mountain climbing, while historian Dr Eve MacDonald examines the motivations that drove Hannibal to make his seemingly impossible journey. (R)

9.00 How the Victorians Built Britain. Michael Buerk looks at how the Victorians created what is now known as the modern home, exploring the huge rise in house-building during the period.

10.00 Tower Bridge: Britain's Greatest Bridge. Rob Bell considers London's Tower Bridge, which was built to a revolutionary design and in the Second World War became a target for German V-1 flying bombs. (R)

11.05 The Headless Gladiators of York: Ancient Mysteries. (R)

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10 Cagney & Lacey.** (R) **4.00 GPs: Behind Closed Doors.** (R) **4.45 Wildlife SOS.** (R) **5.10 House Doctor.** (R) **5.35 Great Artists.** (R) **3.30 Close**

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Secrets of Our Living Planet. **8.00 Lost Land of the Tiger.** **9.00 The Plague.** **10.30 British Sitcom:** 60 Years of Laughing at Ourselves. **11.30 Biggest Band Break Ups and Make Ups.** **12.30 Top of the Pops:** 1986. **1.05 Secrets of Our Living Planet.** **2.05 Lost Land of the Tiger.** **3.05 Close**

ITV2

1.40 You've Been Framed! Gold **3.10 The X Factor.** **4.15 Film:** Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over. **2003. 5.20 FYI Daily 5.25 Film:** Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over (2003). **6.05 Film:** The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (2008). **7.00 FYI Daily 7.10 Film:** The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (2008). **8.10 FYI Film:** Hot Pursuit (2015). **9.10 FYI Daily 9.15 Film:** Hot Pursuit (2015). **10.00 Celebrity Juice:** 10th Birthday Special **10.50 Family Guy:** 12.15 American Dad! **1.10 Release the Hounds.** **2.10 Totally Bonkers** Guinness World Records **2.45 Teleshopping.**

ITV3

3.05 Film: Carry On Loving (1970). **4.55 Lewis.** **6.55 Midsummer Murders.** **9.00 Endeavour.** **11.00 Vera.** **1.00 On the Buses.** **2.00 ITV3 Nightscreen.** **2.30 Teleshopping.**

ITV4

1.10 Storage Wars: Best of Darrell and Brandon **1.40 Storage Wars:** Best of Barry Weiss **2.05 Storage Wars:** Best of the Appraisals **3.25 Storage Wars.** **3.05 Silverstone Classic 4.05 Film:** Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure (1989). **5.10 FYI Daily 5.15 Film:** Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure (1989). **5.55 The Chase:** Celebrity Special **7.00 Cycling:** Vuelta a Espana **8.00 River Monsters.** **9.00 Film:** Rambo III (1988). **10.05 FYI Daily 10.10 Film:** Rambo: First Blood Part II (1985). **11.10 FYI Film:** Platoon (1986). **12.20 FYI Daily 12.25 Film:** Platoon (1986). **1.35 Better Late Than Never.** **2.25 The Protectors.** **2.50 ITV4 Nightscreen.** **3.00 Teleshopping.**

Film4

1.00 The Goldbergs. **3.00 The Great British Bake Off.** **4.15 The Great British Bake Off:** An Extra Slice **5.15 Extreme Cake Makers.** **5.30 The Big Bang Theory.** **9.00 Film:** Die Hard (1988). **11.40 Gogglebox.** **1.50 Rude Tube 2.45 Gogglebox.** **3.40 Rude Tube.**

11.00 Bridge to Terabithia. (2007). **1.00 Eragon.** (2006). **3.05 Capture the Flag.** (2015). **5.00 Carry On Constable.** (1960). **6.45 The Imitation Game.** (2014). **9.00 The Last Witch Hunter.** (2015). **11.05 Predator.** (1987). **1.15 Predator 2.** (1990). **3.30 Close**

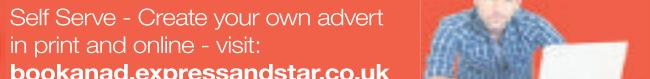
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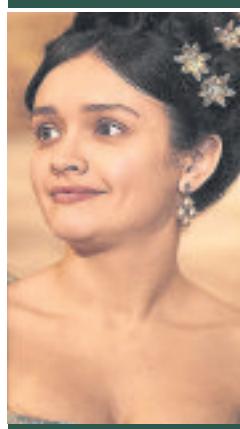
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SUNDAY'S TV SEPTEMBER 16

AT YOUR LEISURE 21

CHOICE



Olivia Cooke

Vanity Fair (ITV, 9pm)

George refuses to apologise for his marriage to Amelia and his father sends him a letter, cutting him off from the family and denying him his inheritance. All the friends set sail for Belgium, where Becky makes use of every opportunity to advance in society, laying on the charm with the great and the good. Even George is captivated by Becky's new glamour, as Amelia notices with mounting dread.

Adaptation of William

Makepeace Thackeray's novel about an amoral woman who cunningly manoeuvres her way to the top of Georgian high society. Starring Olivia Cooke, Claudia Jessie, Tom Bateman, Johnny Flynn and Charlie Rowe.

BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast. **8.35** Match of the Day. (R) **10.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **11.00** Regional Programme. **11.30** Sunday Morning Live. **12.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Still Open All Hours. (R) **1.45** Hold the Sunset. (R) **2.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.45** Lifeline. **2.55** Points of View. **3.10** Songs of Praise. **3.45** Fake or Fortune? (R) **4.45** Shop Well for Less? (R) **5.45** Pointless Celebrities. (R)
- 6.35** BBC News.
- 6.50** Regional Programme.
- 7.00** **Countryfile.** Helen Skelton visits a farm in York to hear how the extreme weather has brought about a carrot crisis, leading to the lowest yields for decades and the highest levels of imports. In Cornwall, Steve Brown meets Seth Pascoe, who wants to bring the nutritional benefits of sea berries to the wider public. Adam Henson meets the Welsh and English contenders for this year's One Man and His Dog, and Charlotte Smith investigates whether farmers can really trust their banks when it comes to future financing. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.
- 8.00** **Antiques Roadshow.** The roving team values more decorative objects and rarities belonging to the public.
- 9.00** **Bodyguard.** Determined to push the investigation forward, David targets Julia's enemies. As he looks into the home secretary's political manoeuvring, he finds his fears about a conspiracy at the heart of government look increasingly plausible. However, concerns are raised surrounding his psychological health as allegations about his professional conduct come to light and the finger of blame is suddenly pointed at him. The penultimate episode of the thriller, written by Line of Duty's Jed Mercurio and starring Richard Madden.
- 10.00** BBC News.
- 10.20** Regional Programme.
- 10.30** **Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, introducing highlights of Wolverhampton Wanderers v Burnley at Molineux.
- 11.30** Film: **The Devil's Double.** (2011) **1.10** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.15** BBC News.

BBC2

- 6.05** Around the World in 80 Gardens. (R) **7.05** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.05** Countryfile. (R) **9.00** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** Great British Menu. (R) **11.30** Great British Menu. (R) **12.30** Rowing: World Championships 2018. Live coverage of the event from Plovdiv, Bulgaria. **2.00** Triathlon World Series: Gold Coast Highlights. **3.30** Flug It! (R) **4.20** Monet for Nothing. (R) **5.05** Jaguars: Brazil's Super Cats. (R)
- 6.05** Film: **Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull.** (2008) The globe-trotting archaeologist teams up with a rebellious teenager who draws him into a search in the Amazon jungle for a mysterious artefact of untold power. But their quest is hindered by Soviet agents, who also want the fabled object for an altogether more sinister purpose. Action adventure sequel, starring Harrison Ford, Cate Blanchett, Shia LaBeouf, Ray Winstone and John Hurt.
- 8.00** **Dragons' Den.** An inventor with a passion for pets hopes the Dragons will appreciate his cat whistle, while an entrepreneur plans to tempt the millionaires to invest in her coconut-based desserts.
- 9.00** **King Arthur's Britain: The Truth Unearthed.** With access to a major new excavation on the Tintagel peninsula in Cornwall, Professor Alice Roberts puts together the evidence to reveal what Dark Age Britain was really like.
- 10.00** **Mock the Week.** Topical comedy quiz show. (R)
- 10.30** **No Activity.** Things get awkward over the radio as Hendy and April reveal to Stokes and Carol that they recently went on a date together.
- 10.55** **No Activity.** Hendy and Stokes are joined on their breakout by a witness, in the hope that she can identify a suspect. Nearby, Bruce and Jimmy are reunited as Bruce is released from hospital.
- 11.20** Film: **The Mighty Redcar.** Nineteen-year-old James's hopes of turning over a new leaf are jeopardised when he is arrested. (R)
- 12.05** American Justice. (R) **1.05** Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **2.05** Holby City. (R) **3.05** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

- 6.00** CITV: Dino Dana. **6.10** Super 4. (R) **6.25** Super 4. (R) **6.35** Make It Pop. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Cut the Rope: Om Nom Stories. **7.05** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.15** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.30** ToonMarty. (R) **7.40** ToonMarty. (R) **7.55** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25** Spy School. (R) **8.55** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **9.25** Ninja Warrior UK. (R) **10.20** WOS Wrestling. (R) **11.20** The X Factor. (R) **12.30** ITV Weather. **12.40** Film: You've Got Mail. (1998) Romantic comedy, starring Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan. **3.00** Paul O'Grady's Little Heroes. (R) **3.30** Love Your Garden. (R) **4.30** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. (R) **5.30** The Chase. (R)
- 6.30** **ITV News:** Weather.
- 7.00** **5 Gold Rings.** Game show, hosted by Phillip Schofield, in which two pairs of contestants compete to answer visual questions by placing rings on an LED floor.
- 8.00** **The X Factor.** The audition rounds continue in the talent contest, hosted by Dermot O'Leary, with judges Robbie Williams, Ayda Williams, Louis Tomlinson and Simon Cowell deciding who goes through.
- 9.00** **Vanity Fair.** George refuses to apologise for his marriage to Amelia and his father sends him a letter, cutting him off from the family and denying him his inheritance.
- 10.05** **The Imitation Game.** Alexander Armstrong hosts the panel show, with Rory Bremer, Debra Stephenson and guests Jan Ravens and Amrit Desai taking on impressionist-based challenges. Featuring an array of voices, musical impersonations, a side to Prince Charles never seen before and The Terminator as reimagined by primary school children.
- 10.45** **ITV News:** Weather.
- 11.05** Joanna Lumley's Silk Road Adventure. Joanna Lumley begins her epic Silk Road adventure, travelling thousands of miles across eight countries, beginning her journey in Venice, Italy. (R)
- 12.05** Strangers. (R) **12.55** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. (R) **3.50** British Superbike Championship Highlights. (R) **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

- 6.15** The King of Queens. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Sunday Brunch. **12.00** Formula 1 Singapore Grand Prix Live Build Up. Previewing the 15th race of the season. **12.40** Formula 1 Singapore Grand Prix Live. Coverage of the 15th round of the season (Start-time 1.10pm). **3.30** Formula 1 Singapore Grand Prix Live Reaction. Reviewing the 16th round of the season. **4.15** Orangutan Jungle School. (R) **5.15** The Great British Bake Off. (R)
- 6.30** **Channel 4 News.**
- 7.00** **Million Pound Mega Yachts.** Documentary about the Monaco Yacht Show, where over 100 of the largest yachts on the water are up for sale, with billionaire buyers competing to own the most extravagant vessels. The programme follows those who make, buy and work on these craft, including a Soho businessman planning to sail around the world, a broker with 25 years experience looking to sell a £130 million yacht, and a billionaire installing a crystal chandelier in his floating palace. (R)
- 8.00** **Battle of Britain: Model Squadron.** Historian James Holland sets the model squadron the goal of using their remote-control planes to explore a pivotal day at the heart of the Battle for Britain. On 15 August 1940, the Luftwaffe launched an all-out assault to destroy the RAF's fighter force on the ground, and it was the biggest day of mass bombing the world had ever seen. Under the command of RAF Tornado technician Mike Mathias, the model squadron train half a dozen new pilots to fly Spitfires and Hurricanes, and master scrambling the entire squadron at once.
- 9.00** **Celebrity Island with Bear Grylls.** The nine remaining celebs are starting to crack under the pressure as they battle huge tropical storms. A war of words erupts between Paris Lees and Pete Wicks.
- 10.00** Film: **Dawn of the Planet of the Apes.** (2014) Sci-fi thriller sequel, starring Andy Serkis.
- 12.35** Film: **Adore.** (2013) **2.40** Homes by the Sea. (R) **3.35** Grand Designs Australia. (R) **4.30** Vet on the Hill. (R)

CHANNEL 5

- 6.00** Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.10** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.15** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **6.30** Luo Bao Bei. (R) **6.40** Digby Dragon. (R) **6.50** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.00** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.15** Bob the Builder. (R) **7.25** Rusty Rivets. (R) **7.40** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **8.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.10** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.25** Nella the Princess Knight. (R) **8.45** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.00** Pirata & Capitano. (R) **9.15** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **9.30** Froglets. (R) **9.50** Paw Patrol. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Monkeys Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **11.20** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.10** Friends. (R) **12.30** Friends. (R) **1.00** Friends. (R) **1.30** Friends. (R) **2.00** Friends. (R) **2.30** Friends. (R) **3.00** Friends. (R) **3.30** Friends. (R) **4.00** Friends. (R) **4.25** Friends. (R) **4.55** Film: The Kid. (2000) Disney comedy, starring Bruce Willis. **5.55** Access.
- 6.00** Film: **The Kid.** (2000) Concluded.
- 6.55** **News Weekend.**
- 7.00** **World's Most Shocking Sea Monsters.** The latest scientific technology is used to explore the most famous folklore of the ocean, investigating whether there is any truth in tales of the kraken and the Loch Ness Monster. (R)
- 8.00** **Mysteries of the Bermuda Triangle.** Documentary about the area of the north Atlantic between Florida, Puerto Rico and Bermuda where it is alleged many boats and aeroplanes have gone missing. Stories about strange events in the region include a US Coast Guard ship that detected a phantom landmass on its radar, two "ghost rockets" that flew silently over a US Navy ship and Russian submarine that reported a manner of bizarre activity. There are interviews with some of the leading experts on this mystery, air traffic controllers Bob Green and Bob Gish, pilots Bruce Gernon and Fred Grieser, underwater explorers Evan Kovacs and Les Savage and weather expert Dr Stephen Leatherman. (R)
- 10.00** **Big Brother.** Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chat-chat.
- 11.30** **20 Moments That Rocked Comedy.** (R)
- 1.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** Loch Ness Monster: The Missing Evidence. (R) **4.00** Tattoo Disasters UK. (R)

DIGITAL

- BBC Four**
- 7.00** The Last Night of the Proms from around the UK **8.30** Late Liverpool at 30 **9.00** James May's Cars of the People **10.00** Last Days in Vietnam **11.45** The Last Explorers **12.40** Pappano's Classical Voices **14.00** Whoever Heard of a Black Artist? Britain's Hidden Art History **2.40** James May's Cars of the People **3.40** Close

ITV2

- 12.50** Ninja Warrior UK **1.50** You've Been Framed **2.20** The X Factor **3.40**
- Film:** Paul Blart: Mall Cop (2009) **4.45** FYI Daily **4.50** Film: Paul Blart: Mall Cop (2009) **5.30** Film: Minions (2015) **6.35** FYI Daily **6.40** Film: Minions (2015) **7.25**
- Film:** Battleship (2012) **8.25** FYI Daily **8.30** Film: Battleship (2012) **10.00** Family Guy **11.25** American Dad! **12.25** The Cleveland Show **12.50** Ghosted **1.25** Release the Hounds **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

- 1.10** Goodbye Mr Chips **3.15** Film: Columbus: Short Fuse (1972) **4.45** Foyle's War **8.00** The Good Karma Hospital **11.00** Wire in the Blood **12.40** A Touch of Frost **2.35** Road to Avonlea **4.20** Judge Judy **5.25** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4

- 11.15** Live British Touring Car Championship. Round nine from Silverstone. **6.30** World Cup Rivalries: Brazil v Italy **6.50** Storage Wars **7.20** Film: Moonraker (1979) **8.25** FYI Daily **8.30** Film: Moonraker (1979) **10.00** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **11.00** Film: Universal Soldier: Regeneration (2009) **12.20** FYI Daily **12.25** Film: Universal Soldier: Regeneration (2009) **1.00** Bond Girls Are Forever **2.00** The Avengers **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

- 12.40** Young Sheldon **1.40** The Big Bang Theory **6.40** Film: Back to the Future (1985) **9.00** Kryton **10.00** Fear the Walking Dead **11.05** The Big Bang Theory **12.05** Tattoo Fixers **1.10** Kryton **2.10** Fear the Walking Dead **3.00** Rude Tube **3.25** Hollyoaks

Film4

- 11.00** Stuart Little (1999) **1.00** The Indian in the Cupboard (1995) **2.50** Megamind (2010) **4.45** Field of Dreams (1989) **6.50** Men in Black 3 (2012) Sci-fi comedy sequel, starring Will Smith. **9.00** Faster (2010) Action adventure, starring Dwayne Johnson. **10.55** Byzantium (2012) Vampire horror, with Gemma Arterton and Saoirse Ronan. **1.15** Anna Karenina (2012) **3.55** Close

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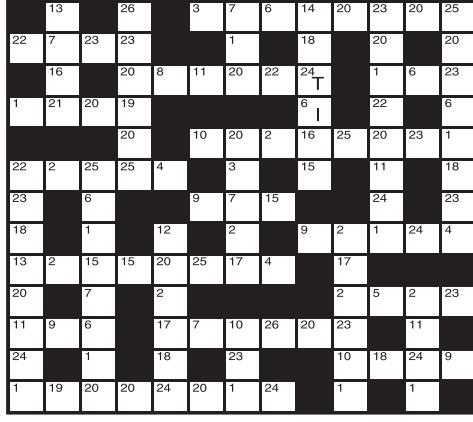
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No.497

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | N | T | D | V | B | E | A | R | H | L | C | P | Z |
| 14 | Q | X | I | K | M | U | J | S | G | F | O | Y | W |

Quiz

- What is the largest species of antelope?
- For which film did Dustin Hoffman win his first Best Actor Oscar?
- What is the female counterpart of the male spirit incubus?
- Which plants have an organ called a holdfast?
- Which poet's novel The Memoirs of a Midget appeared in 1921?
- In which country was the explosive Semtex originally manufactured?
- Of which group of creatures is the porpoise the smallest member?
- In the New Testament, whom did Jesus raise from the dead?
- Which organisation's military HQ is at Chievres, Belgium?
- Which king married Princess Caroline of Brunswick in 1795?

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues – both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

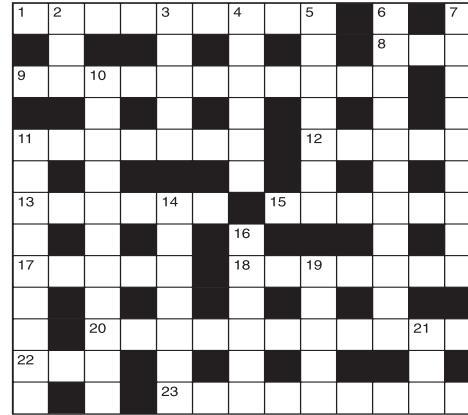
- Foremen apparently have too keen vision (9)
- In trouble evidently on the sheltered side (3)
- Interchange career topic (11)
- Animal and boy behave violently (7)
- Paying him means being able to call the tune (5)
- Copper seldom provides arrow poison (6)
- Appoint in road (6)
- As far as anything goes (5)
- Sound of burning right amongst the sound of hens (7)
- Personal discipline of front cellos (4-7)
- Hint for billiards-player? (3)
- Horses outlast animals in pride (9)
- Foremen apparently have too keen vision (9)
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- Horses outlast animals in pride (9)
- Came to agreement – company pledged to take on 1000 (11)
- Remember to assemble again (9)
- Flusters like one kind of snake? (7)
- Current is doubled by first-class set-up in tree (6)
- Cancel article taken from yearly publication (5)
- Be the possessor now (3)

Down

- Five, that is, compete (3)
- Brown pea is... (5)
- ...called forth, and spun out round circle after five (6)
- More intelligent cheat at cards? (7)
- Dreamy pedestrian? (11)
- Change the order of the back row, perhaps (9)
- Came to agreement – company pledged to take on 1000 (11)
- Remember to assemble again (9)
- Flusters like one kind of snake? (7)
- Current is doubled by first-class set-up in tree (6)
- Cancel article taken from yearly publication (5)
- Be the possessor now (3)
- Go before (7)
- Leather strap (5)
- Rumpus (6)
- Handwriting (6)
- Glass bottle (5)
- Shortness (7)
- Priority (11)
- Consume (3)
- Hopeless (9)

AT YOUR LEISURE

Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 6 |
| 4 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 1 |
| 3 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 2 |
| 9 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 3 |
| 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 9 |
| 6 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 8 |
| 5 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 7 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 4 |
| 1 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 5 |

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Purify; 8 Polish;
10 Offence; 11 Tango; 12 Nine; 13 Crane;
17 Bonus; 18 Snow; 22 Amiss; 23 Lincoln;
24 Reamer; 25 Floral; Down: 1 Appoint;
2 Profane; 3 Stand; 4 Fortune; 5 Lions;
6 Throw; 9 Tearfully; 14 Monster; 15 On board;
16 Swindler; 19 Marry; 20 Vital; 21 Angle.
QUICK - Across: 7 Placid; 8 Swerve; 10 Aviator;
11 Never; 12 Deep; 13 Ingle; 17 Peril; 18 Keen;
22 Bland; 23 Liberal; 24 Spring; 25 Assent.
Down: 1 Upwards; 2 Mariner; 3 Piety; 4 Swindle;
5 Crave; 6 Heart; 9 Principle; 14 Verdant;
15 Learned; 16 Inflate; 19 Abuse; 20 Marry;
21 Abash.

Quick Clues:

Across

- Learning (9)
- Hasten (3)
- Near (11)
- Golf club (6)
- Resilient (7)
- Leather strap (5)
- Rumpus (6)
- Handwriting (6)
- Glass bottle (5)
- Shortness (7)
- Priority (11)
- Consume (3)
- Provide (5)
- Sever (3)

Down

- Pinch (3)
- Slack (5)
- Go before (7)
- Ugly (9)
- Headlong (11)
- Delayed (9)
- Enlarged (7)
- Counting frame (6)
- Delayed (9)
- Sever (3)

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

82719163
83449
1658832

gives a child's toy,
gives a second child's toy,
gives a mess.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

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An immaculate and substantial detached with five bedrooms set in popular spot is ideal for a family

An immaculate and substantial detached family home in Albion Street, Wall Heath, lies within this extremely sought-after area within the heart of Wall Heath village.

Having incredibly spacious, luxury appointed accommodation which is 'ready to move into', it is for sale through Taylors estate agents at £425,000.

Its accommodation briefly comprises a reception hall, a ground floor WC, a lounge, a separate

WALL HEATH £425,000

formal dining room, a very large, beautifully appointed dining kitchen, separate utility room, five good-sized bedrooms (master with luxury ensuite shower room), well-appointed house bathroom, gas central heating and double glazing.

There is also a large pebbled

driveway leading to the garage, and an excellent garden.

The selling agents are expecting a great deal of interest to be shown in the sale of this excellent sized property.

For further information, or to book that all important viewing, contact the selling agents, Taylors Estate Agents, at their local branch office on 01384 401777.



This great top floor luxury apartment is a part of history that simply needs to be viewed quickly

Want to buy and live in a piece of history?

This large, top floor luxury two bedroomed apartment in Fairfield Lodge, Marshall Crescent, Wordsley, is for sale through Taylors Estate Agents at £144,950.

It is set within the sought after conversion of the heritage buildings by Shropshire Homes, done around eight years ago.

The approach is from the

WORDSLY £144,950

communal lobby and staircase.

It has a 24ft reception hall, a full width 18ft lounge with a dining area, a spacious separate kitchen with appliances, two double bedrooms, a master with an en-suite and a main bathroom.

Add to this electric heating, double

glazing, allocated parking and grounds.

The large, incredibly well proportioned and beautifully appointed layout includes high ceilings and tall sash windows creating a light and airy feel.

The selling agents are expecting a great deal of interest to be shown in the sale of this property.

Contact Taylors estate agents on 01384 401777.

Halesowen Office Lettings & Property Management

CAUSEWAY FARM ROAD, HALESOWEN £795 pcm+fees

This semi-detached property is situated in a quiet cul-de-sac in this very desirable location & consists of 2 reception rooms • sun room leading to a beautiful mature south facing private garden, kitchen, downstairs w.c extended garage, upstairs is a shower room & 3 good size bedrooms, garage & driveway for 2 cars. EPC: D

WESTLEY AVENUE, HALESOWEN £750 pcm+fees

We are pleased to offer this traditional 3 bedroom semi detached property located in a cul de sac position & close to local amenities. The property benefits from double glazing and gas central heating. Entrance hall, good size lounge, excellent kitchen/diner with a fridge/freezer, 3 bedrooms and family bathroom with separate shower. There is off road parking for 2 cars and front and rear gardens. Available mid October. EPC: D

BOTTLE KILN RISE, BRIERLEY HILL £695 pcm+fees

A new 2 bedroom home in this very quiet location close to all amenities. Entrance hallway, fitted kitchen, lounge with patio doors to rear garden, downstairs w.c., 2 good sized bedrooms, family bathroom with shower. The property also benefits from 2 parking spaces. EPC: B

SURFEIT HILL ROAD, CRADLEY HEATH £695 pcm+fees

A semi-detached home, briefly comprising of: Large Lounge, modern fitted kitchen, shower room, 3 bedrooms, double glazing, gas central heating, driveway & garage parking, rear garden. EPC: C

MENDIP ROAD, HALESOWEN £695 pcm+fees

A spacious 3 bedroom semi detached home on the Squirrels Estate in Halesowen/Hayley Green which has had new carpets laid, being double glazed and centrally heated throughout. Being located on this popular estate the property would make an ideal family home and has accommodation to comprise a reception hall, lounge, dining kitchen, 3 large bedrooms, house bathroom with shower over bath, rear garden, double glazing, gas central heating, double glazing and a good size rear garden. EPC: D

BEST STREET, CRADLEY HEATH £650 pcm+fees

Lovely presented and close to shops. This 3 bedroom terraced property is within walking distance to Old Hill shops and train station. The property features 2 reception rooms, modern kitchen, downstairs bathroom, an extra room between the rear reception room and kitchen, gas central heating, double glazing and a good size rear garden. EPC: E

WATERMARQUE, BIRMINGHAM £650 pcm+fees

Tastefully presented and well proportioned studio apartment set in the prestigious Watermarque development. This 4th floor property is fully furnished and comprises: Living room, double glazed throughout, fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, double glazing, secure door entry system and storage cupboard. 1 allocated parking space and visitor parking. gas central heating, double glazing and communal gardens. MINIMUM CONTRACT 12 MONTHS. EPC: C

HEARTLAND MEWS, ROWLEY REGIS £595 pcm+fees

A modern 2 bedroom semi-detached house in a pleasant cul-de-sac position, and close to Blackheath town centre, comprising of 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, double glazed throughout, fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, double glazing, secure door entry system and 1 allocated parking space. EPC: C

PEDMORE GRANGE, STOURBRIDGE/PEDMORE £595 pcm+fees

An assortment of 1 bedroom apartments on the 1st floor in this exclusive development located in Pedmore. Fully refurbished to a high standard within private mature gardens, gated with a driveway & parking, electric storage heaters, 1 double bedroom & family bathroom. EPC: D

COPPICE ROAD, CRADLEY HEATH £585 pcm+fees

Recently refurbished to a good standard. Ideally located on the Timbertree Estate for the local primary school. This 2 double bedroom house features 1 reception room, modern kitchen/diner, house bathroom with shower, covered storage area to the rear, rear garden, on road parking. EPC: C

THE INFIELD, HALESOWEN £575 pcm+fees

A beautifully presented 2 bedroom ground floor apartment in a sought after area of Halesowen. Featuring 2 bedrooms, a large family room, double glazing, gas central heating, double glazing, secure door entry system and storage cupboard. 1 allocated parking space and visitor parking. gas central heating, double glazing and communal gardens. MINIMUM 12 MONTH CONTRACT. EPC: B

BEAUMONT ROAD, HALESOWEN/BLACKHEATH £575 pcm+fees

•• UNDERGOING SOME REDECORATION AND NEW CARPETS THROUGHOUT •• This terraced property is conveniently close to the town centre where there are many local amenities. The house features 2 reception rooms, modern kitchen, house bathroom with shower over bath, 2 double bedrooms and rear garden. This property also benefits from double glazing and gas central heating. EPC: D

SHOOTERS CLOSE, EDGBASTON £575 pcm+fees

Set in a quiet cul-de-sac, a stones throw away from Calthorpe park, is this semi-detached home, comprising of: 2 double bedrooms, large lounge, large kitchen, family bathroom (NO SHOWER), double glazing, gas central heating, driveway parking, garage, front and rear gardens. EPC: D

FOXDALE ROAD, BRIERLEY HILL £550 pcm+fees

In a quiet residential area within a few minutes drive of Brierley Hill town centre & few minutes from Merry Hill shopping centre, this is an unfurnished semi detached back to back house, comprising of: 2 bedrooms, house bathroom with shower, nice sized lounge, fitted kitchen, allocated parking space, front garden. EPC: D

TRINITY COURT, CRADLEY HEATH/OLD HILL £550 pcm+fees

In the centre of Old Hill, close to Old Hill Train Station. This modern 2nd floor apartment featuring an open plan lounge/kitchen with a washer/dryer and fridge freezer, 2 double bedrooms, modern bathroom with shower, 1 allocated parking space, behind secured electric gates. MINIMUM 12 MONTH CONTRACT. EPC: C

WYCHERLEY WAY, CRADLEY HEATH £525 pcm+fees

A 1st floor apartment on a popular development close to Cradley Heath, Old Hill Train Station, Old Hill bus stops and bus links. Featuring gas central heating, double glazing, lounge, fitted kitchen with washing machine and fridge freezer, 1 double bedroom and 1 single bedroom, bathroom with shower, parking space. EPC: B

ROUND STREET, NETHERTON £525 pcm+fees

A lovely re-decorated unfurnished semi detached house. Featuring gas central heating, living room, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, driveway parking, rear garden. Also benefiting from new windows and doors throughout. EPC: D •• LANDLORD REQUIRES 2 MONTHS DEPOSIT AND A FAMILY MEMBER TO BE A GUARANTOR (MUST BE A HOME OWNER AND WORKING) ••

WHITEHALE COURT, HALESOWEN £499 pcm+fees

Centrally located to Halesowen Town Centre is this well presented 1st floor flat with private entrance, hallway, kitchen with a new cooker and fridge freezer, new flooring in the kitchen, living room, bathroom with newly fitted shower, 2 good size bedrooms, communal garden & secure gated parking to rear of property. EPC: C

SEDHOUSE COURT, CRADLEY HEATH/OLD HILL £495 pcm+fees

Set within lovely private gardens. Ideally located for Old Hill train station, local shops and buses for Cradley Heath, Halesowen and Merry Hill, an unfurnished ground floor apartment features 2 double bedrooms, fitted kitchen with white goods, spacious lounge, house bathroom with shower, allocated parking. EPC: D

VILLA STREET, AMBLECOTE £500 pcm+fees

A beautiful ground floor modern apartment which is furnished to suit. Newly available with open plan lounge/kitchen with modern range of fitted units, breakfast bar & integrated appliances, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with separate shower, 1 designated car parking space to rear of property, communal gardens. EPC: D

HIGH STREET, LY/STOURBRIDGE £375 pcm+fees

In the centre of Lye which is ideal for buses, shops and Lye Train Station. This spacious 2nd floor apartment has been decorated throughout and features a lovely spacious lounge and open plan with the lounge, 1 double bedroom, bathroom, electric heating, double glazing, on road parking. EPC: E

Halesowen



Mucklow Hill

- * An Impressive Individual Detached House with Open Aspect and Secluded Gardens
 - * Sitting Room * Open Plan Lounge/Dining Room with Sun Lounge * Fitted Kitchen, Bedrooms 1 & 3 with Ensuite
 - * Dressing Room/Potential Bedroom 2, EPC=D
- Offers in the region of £415,000



Halesowen



Greenhill Road

- * Traditional Style Semi-Detached House
 - * Principal Bedroom with Fitted Furniture
 - * Two Further Bedrooms * Superb Extended Lounge, Separate Dining Area/Sitting Room
 - * Quality Extended Kitchen/Breakfast Room
 - * Utility Room, Secluded Gardens EPC=D
- Offers in the region of £285,000



Halesowen



Narrow Lane

- * Extended and Re-planned Semi-Detached House * Corner Position
 - * Spacious Ground Floor Accommodation
 - * Three Bedrooms * Bathroom with Shower Cubicle * Sitting Room, Living Room, Dining Room and Sun Room EPC=D
- Offers in the region of £279,950



Halesowen



Hunnington Crescent

- * Three storey town house
 - * Three Bedrooms * L-shaped Living/dining room and sitting room
 - * Fitted cloakroom and re-fitted bathroom
 - * Off road parking
 - * Tiered garden EPC=D
- Offers in the region of £179,950



Halesowen



Carters Lane

- * Desirable Family Home in Popular location.
 - * Sitting Room and Living Room
 - * Extended Kitchen/Breakfast Room
 - * Utility * Downstairs wc * Four Bedrooms
 - * Bathroom and Shower Room
 - * Small Garage EPC=D
- Offers in the region of £410,000



Halesowen



Radbourne Drive

- * Extended Detached House Re-Planned on Ground Floor * Kitchen/Breakfast Room
 - * Utility and Downstairs WC * Lounge
 - * Orangery * Four Bedrooms
 - * Ensuite Shower Room * Family Bathroom
 - * Study (Former Garage) EPC=D
- Offers in the region of £325,000



Halesowen



Lydate Road

- * Mid Terraced House * Property is in need of refurbishment * Full of potential
 - * In popular location * Through Lounge/Dining Room * Kitchen * Three Bedrooms
 - * Bathroom * Separate WC * Rear Garden
 - * Off road parking EPC=D
- Offers in the region of £180,000



Oldbury



Birch Road

- * Deceptively Spacious Semi-Detached House
 - * Dining Room and Lounge
 - * Kitchen/Breakfast Room
 - * Conservatory
 - * Three Bedrooms
 - * Well Appointed Bathroom EPC=tbc
- Offers in the region of £259,950



Halesowen Romsley

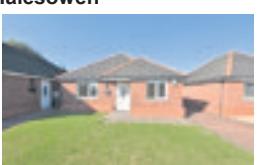


Farley Lane

- * First Floor Apartment
 - * Kitchen * Living Room
 - * Bedroom
 - * Bathroom
 - * Allocated Parking EPC=D
- Offers in the region of £130,000



Halesowen

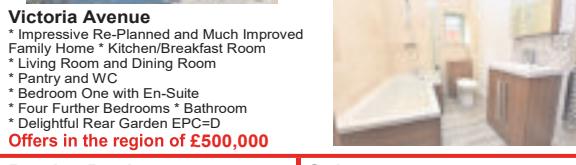


Quinton

Halesowen



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 - * Living Room and Dining Room
 - * Pantry and WC
 - * Bedroom One with En-Suite
 - * Four Further Bedrooms * Bathroom
 - * Delightful Rear Garden EPC=D
- Offers in the region of £500,000



Halesowen



Westfield Road

- * Semi-Detached House
 - * Two Reception Rooms & Small Conservatory
 - * Three Bedrooms
 - * Downstairs W.C & First Floor Bathroom
 - * Good-Sized Rear Garden
 - * Off Road Parking EPC=D
- Offers in the region of £169,950



Oldbury



Smethwick



Rowley Regis



Quinton



Birmingham B16



Hagley Road

- ### The Lodge
- * Top Floor Apartment with Balcony
 - * Spacious Lounge * Fitted Kitchen
 - * Bedroom * Bathroom with both Bath & Shower Cubicle * Gated Car Park with Allocated Space EPC=D
- Offers in the region of £130,000



Norfolk Road

- * Terraced House * Living Room
 - * Kitchen & Utility
 - * Conservatory
 - * Three Bedrooms
 - * Bathroom and Separate WC
 - * Rear Garden EPC=bc
- Offers in the region of £124,950

Leicester Close

- * Purpose Built Flat
 - * Communal Entrance
 - * Living Room * Kitchen
 - * Bedroom
 - * Bathroom
 - * Communal Gardens EPC=D
- Offers in the region of £95,000

Ross Heights

- * Semi detached house situated in cul-de-sac location
 - * Three bedrooms
 - * L-shaped living room
 - * Block paved driveway
- Offers in the region of £189,950

Higgins Lane

- * Semi-Detached House in need of some general modernisation and improvement. * Full of potential
 - * Kitchen/Breakfast Room
 - * Living Room * Three Bedrooms
 - * Shower Room * Rear Garden EPC=D
- Offers in the region of £149,950

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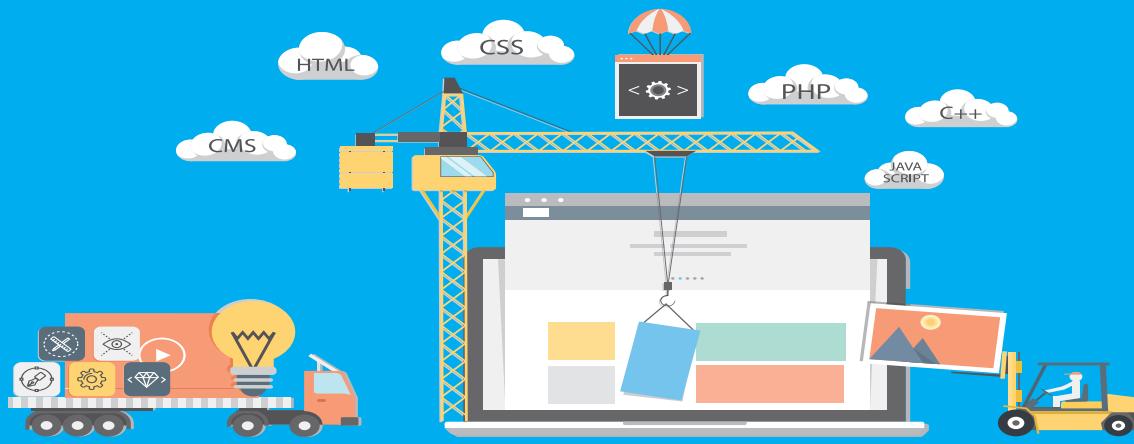
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The Ford Ka+ Active is an impressively amusing thing to drive

Funky, fresh edge to Ford's city car – the Ka+ Active

By Ryan Hirons

Hatchback-turned-rugged SUV is one of the biggest trends amongst car manufacturers at the moment, and Ford is looking to lead the way with its 'Active' range of machinery.

First came the Fiesta Active, and soon too will the all-new Focus. But for now, there's this – the Ka+ Active.

Now the Ka+ has never been a tremendously memorable car. It's by no means a bad machine, but it's fair to say the success of the Fiesta and general buyer focus towards more premium machinery means the city car hasn't captured imaginations in the way the 1996 original did – but could Active treatment change that?

Calling Active just a trim level for the Ka+ would be doing it a disservice — there's actually quite a lot of depth to it. Most noticeably is the 'rugged' look on offer, which comes thanks to redesigned body panels, roof rails and a raised ride height.

Debuting alongside a Ka+ facelift, there's also a new engine line-up on offer, with two petrols and a diesel available, while a host of new equipment available for the city car also joins the fray. Powering our test car is a 1.2-litre three-cylinder petrol engine, producing 84bhp and 112Nm of torque which sent to the front wheels via a five-speed manual gearbox. As for fuel economy, Ford



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It is a fairly interesting looking thing claims it can manage 49.6mpg while emitting 129g/km of CO₂ emissions. It's far from a potent engine — with the small unit having to be worked hard to get the most out of it — but for town driving, it's powerful enough with a flexible clutch making for surprisingly easy stop/start movement, a must for any city car. The shifter also has a surprisingly satisfying feel to it for a car built cheaply and allows for quite a bit of fun behind the wheel.

The Ford Ka+ Active is an impressively amusing thing to drive. Despite being slow, it doesn't feel like a chore when working it hard and it's spritely around corners, thanks to its compact dimensions and responsive handling.

Of course, though, this is a car primarily intended for town use and that's where it works best. It's easy to manoeuvre as a result of its light steering and tiny stature, and parking can be done fairly easily.

Where the Ka+ falters though is on the motorway. Although it rides comfortably, its five-speed box means revs sit high at 70mph which, in combination with high wind noise, brings a lot of unpleasant noise into the cabin.

Ford has angled the Ka+ Active as a more rugged machine, and it has made a number of aesthetic tweaks to try and add to this. These include beefier bodywork, a raised ride height and roof rails. Admittedly the bullish effect doesn't go further than this, and we'd still be inclined to avoid any mud trails with the Ka+ Active.

It is, however, a fairly interesting looking thing. Perhaps the bolder look loses some of the cute charm offered by the base Ka+, but the Active does manage to stand out.

Stepping inside the Ka+ Active brings the realization that this is a car built to a pretty low price point. Plastics are hard and plentiful. But a little more effort from Ford to disguise its roots wouldn't go amiss.

That said, space is respectable. Despite being smaller than the Fiesta, you can fit the same number of people in – five, to be exact – and probably end up with an equal amount of room. As for boot space, that remains identical to the regular Ka+, totalling 270 litres.

There's a fair amount of kit to be found when you consider its entry price of £13,245. For that, you don't just get a spacious city car, but also automatic headlamps, rain-sensing wipers, cruise control and Ford's Sync 3 infotainment system displayed on a 6.5-inch touchscreen. There's no navigation, but there is support for both Apple CarPlay and Android Auto – allowing for the use of arguably more superior mapping technology than the manufacturer offers in the rest of its vehicles.

The Ford Ka+ Active proves to be more than just a trim level. It brings a funky, fresh edge to an otherwise pretty forgettable city car and offers just as much room for the cost as the larger, more loved Fiesta.

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Rutter even hammered on a new kick-starter bought from a shop to try to get his G50 Matchless going again



Crowds watch as Rutter struggles to get his bike going. Pictures: Ellan Vannin Images



On the Yamaha FJ1200 in the Superbike Classic TT

Rutter's racing back for return to Revival

WITH another year of successful – and also stressful and dangerous – racing almost coming to a close, Michael Rutter has decided to take stock and focus on the races that mean something to him.

At the age of 46, the Brierley Hill-born star is still competing at the front end, particularly on the roads, but with family concerns, a few tragic deaths and also the challenge of keeping up with a new crop of young riders every year, Rutter has decided now is the time to start cherry picking the races that really stand out.

Far from contemplating retirement, however, the racer is keen to enter events that have eluded him for so many years, which started with a return to the Goodwood Revival in Sussex over the weekend.

It meant he missed another National Superstock 1000 round, on the undercard of the British Superbikes at Silverstone – as it clashed with the Goodwood race meeting – but his Black Country Bathams team again supplied a bike for Taylor MacKenzie, whose mother comes from Coseley.

MacKenzie went on to enjoy a good weekend, taking two top six finishes on Saturday.

Only a broken gear selector denied him a podium finish on Sunday.

Clashes

"The team ran a bike for Taylor but I was at Goodwood racing a classic bike," said Rutter.

"I'll be back for the next superstock meeting at Oulton Park as part of a two-rider team."

"I've had a hard time of it this year at the North West 200 and Isle of Man TT, trying to run the team and race at the same time."

"Bathams has been really good and is just letting me do the races I want to do for the rest of the year – I haven't done Goodwood for ages because it always clashes with something."

"I'll probably start doing a little bit less each year now because at my age you just can't compete on so many fronts, but I'll just keep going for as long as I enjoy it."

"There have been a lot of accidents and deaths recently, which made me think about just racing what

SPORTING FEATURE

By James Driver-Fisher

"I'll probably start doing a little bit less each year now because at my age you can't compete on so many fronts."

some of the corners like a Grand Prix bike so I had to pull in. I had felt good on the bike and my plan had been to just stay behind Jamie Coward, although I did see another rider was making up time as my lead was down to about eight seconds, but I knew I could go faster.

"Everything looked to be going well, despite the race being reduced to three laps, which didn't suit me as it always takes me a while to get going."

Rutter also had problems with his G50 Matchless in the Senior Classic TT when the gear lever broke – but showed the fans his determination to try to finish the race.

"I broke down at Ramsey and I thought I might be able to bolt another one on so I was looking around for something when someone ran into a shop and found kick-starter," he said.

"So I hammered that on but then that came off too so I had to retire."

"I was also running second on the Yamaha FJ1200 in the Superbike Classic TT, which was flying until a rod blew while I was hitting around 160mph and I just heard this explosion."

"All in all I suffered six breakdowns during the two weeks I was over there for practice and racing."

"It's just the way it goes sometimes with those classic machines."

"I probably saw more of the races as a spectator than actually completing laps on the bike this year."

Weapon

"But it was good to be up there and I was third, second and first in the races before breaking down so we definitely had the pace."

Rutter, as well as competing at Goodwood Festival of Speed, in Sussex, and finishing of the National Superstock 1000 series, also has his eyes on adding to his record-breaking eight Macau GP wins.

And he has a secret weapon up his sleeve too.

"We've got an RCV Honda, the same bike Marc Marquez uses in the MotoGP, which we'll be running for the first time at Macau," he said.

"If it goes well we might run it at the TT as well next year."

Rutter will be back at Oulton Park with his Bathams team this weekend, with practice, qualifying and racing taking place Friday to Sunday.



Rutter was defending the Classic TT he won last year

Gavin looks to put on his Sunday best

FRANKIE Gavin feels like he's getting back to his best after shedding the pounds for his ring return in Birmingham this weekend.

The homecoming hero is back in action with a six-round tune up at the Holiday Inn Queensway ahead of crunch time later this year. He tops the BCB Promotions bill on Sunday afternoon, his first bout since June 2017.

The second city show is titled 'Bilbao Bound,' a nod to Gavin's trip to Spain to challenge Kerman Lejarraga for European welterweight honours on November 17.

With his own space to dedicate himself to boxing, Frankie Gavin's Ringside Gym in Acocks Green, the 32-year-old believes he has been given a new lease of life. "I don't want to let the kids down at our gym who look me up to me, that's why I'm working so hard to get back to the fighter I used to be," he said. "I nearly called it a day. I've spent 15 months out of the ring and, at the start of that, I was out of shape and fed up with boxing. Now I've lost 3st and I feel great."

Ali's hoping to Kash in on boxing return

IT has been a bitter sweet 2018 for Kash Ali. The Birmingham born boxer lifted the Central Area heavyweight title in March, outgunning David Howe at the Arena Birmingham.

Months later, Ali was mourning the loss of his father. It's been a tough time but the 26 year-old is back firing on all cylinders and ready to make a statement when he makes his ring return this weekend on the Frankie Gavin undercard at the Holiday Inn Queensway in Birmingham.

Also appearing on BCB Promotions' show five-fight lunchtime show on Sunday are Gavin's stablemate Bradley 'Bosh' Thomas, making his pro debut at super lightweight. Daryl Pearce, from Rednal, steps in for his second paid affair. The former white collar fighter turned over with a points success over Mohamed Mahmoud at welter in June whilst fellow Brummie Jordan Clayton makes a welcome ring return.

Tickets are £65 in the inner circle to include a two-course Sunday lunch or £35 standard. For more information and to buy, call 07900 741617

Hosts' clean sweep at memorial chess blitz

CHESS players took to the board to remember a former county champion. Dr Bran Dudley was a former president of Stourbridge Chess Club, which staged the blitz tournament in his memory.

Players were invited from neighbouring clubs to participate in either a junior or an adult tournament. Both tournaments had a fast time control of 10 minutes per person per game. The final results were a clean sweep for the hosts with Ethan Chan taking the junior tournament. Hossam Aboudashy took the Under-145 prize and Jeremy Humphries the Under-125.

The main competition had 30 entrants and was originally intended to be a seven-round Swiss tournament. After three rounds father and son Nic and Jeremy Fallowfield shared the lead and faced each other in a potentially decisive fourth game when a 25-minute power cut led to the action being reduced to six rounds.

Father Nic's experience triumphed and he beat his son before going on to win the tournament after six rounds.

Sport

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Glassboys ease into next round

Highbury Utd 1 Stourbridge 2
STOURBRIDGE will continue their search for more FA Cup glory as the second qualifying tie has pitted them against Leamington.

Gary Hackett's men, who enjoyed a sensational run to the third round last season, will be the underdogs against National League North Leamington, who play in the division above.

Stourbridge, of the Southern League Premier Central, got this season's journey off to a comfortable win at Highbury United.

Goals from Kaiman Anderson and Wolves loanee Aaron Hayden handed the Glassboys a two-goal cushion early in the second half before the Midland Football League outfit hit back through a curling Robbie Bunn effort.

"When you look at the 2-1 scoreline you think it was close but I didn't think it was that close," Hackett said. "I thought the better side won and when we went 2-0 up we had chances to kill the game off."

"They have scored a fantastic free-kick which has given them a lifeline. But the reason the BBC were here is because people saw it as a shock because we've been fortunate to do it to other people and this was always going to be a tricky draw."

The Glassboys soaked up early pressure before chance after chance at the other end where only the frame of giant keeper Brad Catlow and some wayward finishing stopped them from wrapping things up by the break.

Halesowen skipper warns against an aimless finish

HASAN Qaumi hit 47 for Halesowen but fine bowling spells from Wellington's Wendell Wagner (four for 23) and Dan Lloyd (three for 28) reduced them to 136 all out in 27 overs.

Wellington were going well on 92 for one in 11.2 overs when the match was abandoned due to the poor weather.

Captain Alexei Kervezer admitted: "We probably dodged a bullet there. We seem to have our foot off the pedal now that promotion is out of our reach and with the last game of the season upon us.

"But we have a responsibility as players to see it through to the end of the season. We have been giving young players lots of opportunities and I want them to come into an environment which is a positive one, rather than one that's seeing the season out aimlessly."

The second XI had a glorious day with the bat. They motored to 287-9 thanks to Jack Myers (92) Tom Williams (61) and Muhammed Shaub (35) before the rains prevented a probable victory over struggling Wombourne. The third XI won their 14th game of the season to remain top with only Alveley to play next week.

Rutter races back for Revival return

Page 31



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Veteran bags brace on England debut



STRIKER John Cooper scored twice on his walking football debut for England.

The Hartshill Strollers forward was named man of the match in the 4-0 win over Wales in the first international match between the two home nations.

The Over 60s match took place at Jenner Park, home of Barry Town United FC, on Saturday.

Cooper, 62, is a member of Hartshill Strollers WFC who play at Summerhill

School, Kingswinford. An engineer, he lives in Woodcross, Wolverhampton.

Nicknamed Cooperman, he is one of the country's leading walking football goal-scorers having once netted 14 times in a single tournament.

He said: "Playing for your country is a great honour. To score twice on your debut, win the game, and be named man of the match is beyond my wildest dreams."

Cooper scored England's second and fourth goals, either side of half time.

The setting up earlier this year of England walking football squads – both Over 60s and Over 50s – shows the sport's progress.

The national 60 plus squad includes Alan Kennedy, the former Liverpool, Newcastle United and England player, and Tommy Charlton, younger brother of Bobby and Jack Charlton.

Hughes goal keeps Yeltz in the cup

Matlock 1 Halesowen 2

LEE Hughes popped up with the winner for the Yeltz at Matlock to earn them £6,000 and a place in the draw for the FA Cup second qualifying round, where Town will welcome Gainsborough.

Since joining The Yeltz at the latter end of last season from Worcester City, he has notched some vital goals to help save them from relegation and is now helping them to what could be a much-needed FA Cup run.

The last time Halesowen reached the first round proper was in 2000 and they are desperate for the attention and the money a good run would bring.

Halesowen started like a steam train, James Roberts latching on to a goal kick from Daniel Platt which was not dealt with by the Matlock defence to open the scoring for Yeltz after six minutes.

Roberts went close again eight minutes later, a flick-on from Hughes giving him a shooting chance which goalkeeper Richard Walton blocked with his foot.

Aaron Gilpin went close for Halesowen early in the second half, being foiled by Walton, but it was he who conceded the penalty which gave Matlock the equaliser when he brought down Alex Hurst on 59 minutes and Harrad cracked on.

Halesowen kept their cool though and on 71 minutes Goddard found space in midfield to advance and find the former Albion striker, who was able to turn and shoot low past Walton.

Runners lap lake on Welsh course

ATHLETES from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club made their annual pilgrimage to Mid Wales for the Lake Vyrnwy Half Marathon. The 13.1 miles route takes competitors of a lap of the lake and is renowned for being a fast, flat, potential personal best course.

Darran Bishop was first home for the hoops in 96th place in 1.26.29, Mark Gatenby finished 19th in 1.28.21. Helen Tromans claimed second place in her age group and 174th overall 1.33.05, Kevin Herbert was 287th in 1.39.32, Rory Campbell 513th in 1.48.53, Malcolm Beddall was 596th in 1.53.17 with Tim Rowe and Sid Marsh finishing a second adrift.

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Welborn wins Battle of the Baggies II



Jason Welborn lands a blow on Tommy Langford in their thrilling second meeting

JASON Welborn earned a second split decision win over Tommy Langford in another barn-storming Battle of the Baggies.

The second clash between the two Albion fans, this time at Arena Birmingham, ultimately saw 32-year-old Welborn retain his British middleweight crown.

Fighting on the undercard of Amir Khan's points victory over Samuel Vargas on Saturday night, the rivals again had the crowd on their feet during an epic 12-round brawl.

Following on from their bruising fight in Walsall Town Hall earlier in year, which Wel-

born also took via a split decision, the relentless action again ended in favour for Rowley Regis-born boxer, with the judges scoring it 114-113, 115-114 and 113-114.

Langford, 29, also came in for plenty of praise too as he recovered from two crashing right hands to weather the storm and come back stronger in the second half of the contest.

But there was no fairytale ending for Stourbridge's Sam Eggington, who was on the end of a devastating defeat when the former European welterweight champion was stopped by Hassan Mwakinyo inside two rounds.

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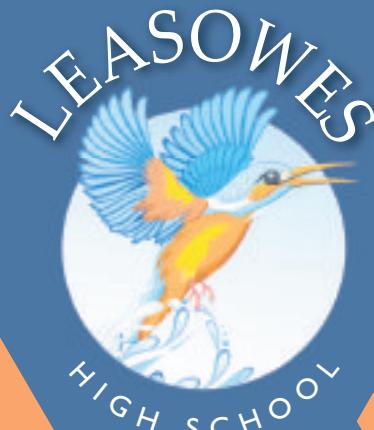


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LEASOWES HIGH SCHOOL

AspireAndAchieve

Examination Success!

The class of 2018 provided some excellent examination successes. 62% of the students gained a grade 4 or above in English and Mathematics which is a 10% improvement on the previous year. Grade 4 or above in English was improved by 5% and Grade 4 or above in Mathematics was improved by 11%.

There was also success in other subjects. Students who studied Biology, Chemistry and Physics separately all passed with a grade 4 or above - a 100% pass rate! Both French and Spanish had 75% pass rates, and History and Geography also provided a strong base of English Baccalaureate qualifications - a strength of the school.

The students had worked hard, supported by a dedicated and talented teaching staff. The results were a testament to their commitment to aspire and achieve. The school's stand out achiever was Aaron James whose results included four grade 9s, four grade 8s and an A*. Aaron was also the recipient of the Christina Edkins Memorial Award for representing the best attributes and aspirations of Leasowes High School. Other top achievers include Jack O'Mahony, Libbi Gamble, Tamseel Naveed, Katie Smith, Zainab Fatima, Rebekah-Mae Eaton, Caitlin O'Connor, Charlotte Barton and Livia Harcan who between them have scored excellent grades across many subjects.

One Million Pound Spend!

Over the past 12 months the school has had a considerable amount of money spent on its roofs. There have been new roofs put onto the sports hall, gymnasium and parts of the main school building with finance provided by the local authority and DFE. As part of the roofing project the school has had a complete refit of the dining room. This has completely transformed the space, being brighter with natural light, as well as allowing more students to eat, especially as the school is continually growing in numbers.



OPEN EVENING TOURS

6.30pm – 8.30pm
Tuesday 18th September
Thursday 20th September

OPEN MORNING TOURS

9am-11am
Wednesday 19th September
Friday 21st September
Tuesday 25th September
Thursday 27th September



Headteacher Matthew Mynott with Head boy, William Blakeway and Head girl, Libby Middleton.

Leasowes High School is an over-subscribed academy within the Invictus Education Trust, working with a strong group of schools that includes a 6th form. The motto of 'Aspire and Achieve' is at the heart of everything we do for our students. To 'Aspire' is to direct our students' hopes and ambitions towards achieving their best and fulfilling their potential. To 'Achieve' is to successfully accomplish one's goals through hard work, effort, skill and courage.

Headteacher Matthew Mynott said "We aim to help each and every student to understand and fulfil their potential by offering an impressive range of opportunities and approaches to learning, supported by a caring and committed pastoral team who are dedicated to the health, emotional wellbeing and personal development of each and every individual."

The school is a happy and caring environment which celebrates achievement and nurtures its students. Our pastoral team include form tutors, a Head of Year, pastoral support managers, an attendance officer, and a nurse. Their work ensures the safeguarding of all our students and supports them throughout their time at Leasowes.

Mr Mynott added: "Leasowes is a 'good' school that believes in providing an outstanding education for all its students. We provide a first class curriculum offer, an enhanced extra-curricular programme and opportunities for individual personal development. All of these features help to imbue our students with a desire to 'Aspire and Achieve' and prepare them for success in their future studies and work beyond Leasowes."

Leasowes High School, Kent Road, Halesowen, West Midlands, B62 8PJ

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INVICTUS
Education Trust



Aspire An

STUDENT LEADERSHIP



The new student leadership team for 2018-19



From left to right: William Blakeway (Head boy), Libby Middleton (Head girl), Charlotte Mann (Deputy Head girl), James Moore (Deputy Head boy).

OUR STUDENTS HAVE A MULTITUDE OF OPPORTUNITIES IN LEADERSHIP.

Student Council representatives provide an active voice for their peers and fellow learners; members of the Eco-Council look closely at the school's use of recycling and better use of the environment; Peer Mentors support our vulnerable students who may be struggling with worries and support their transition from primary school; other leadership opportunities are also offered within Curriculum areas. The ultimate accolade for our students is to represent the school as part of the Prefect team led by the Head Boy, Head Girl and their Deputies.



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Lead and Achieve



ENRICHMENT

Students will also have a wide range of enrichment and extra-curricular activities available to them. The school has daily sporting activities, as well as opportunities to represent the school in traditional team sports. Every year the Arts department work with our students on the school production giving students the chance to act, sing, dance; work the lighting and sound or be part of the back stage crew. In addition, we are proud to offer an award winning STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) club where we have been winners in both national and regional competitions. Whatever the interest of the student, we believe that there will be something to challenge, inspire or motivate them.

Wolverhampton Grand

Leasowes students performed extracts of their annual school production – Peter Pan at the Wolverhampton Grand theatre this year alongside the other Invictus schools.



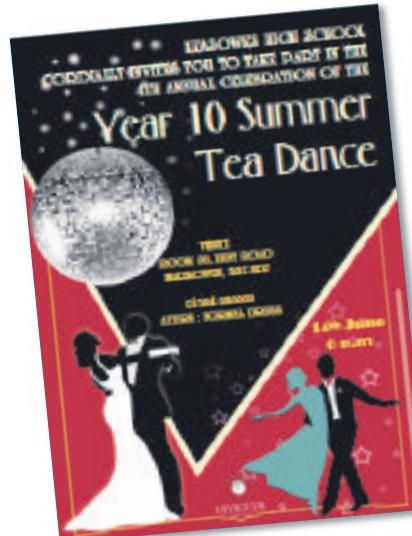
INVICTUS GAMES

During this academic year we were invited to take part in the "Invictus Games". This has involved taking students from different year groups to compete against other Invictus schools in a wide variety of sports from athletics, badminton, dodgeball, handball, basketball and many more. Overall we have had a great first year and finished in 2nd place across all of the games!



TEA DANCE

As part of our high achievers and enrichment programme, students prepare for the social side of university life and are cordially invited to a tea dance in Year 10. They take part in a course of ballroom dance lessons. This year, the students swept their partners around the dance floor to the sound of traditional and modern tunes and enjoyed a sumptuous afternoon tea.



PROM

Our Year 11 prom this year took place at Spring Grove House, a beautiful Georgian manor house set in the grounds of West Midland Safari & Leisure Park. An enjoyable evening was had by all – a thoroughly well-deserved treat after all their recent hard work.



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STEM CHAMPIONS - LEASOWES HIGH SCHOOL, TEAM ASPIRE

Leasowes took two teams of D&T year 8 students to participate in a STEM based competition at the RAF Cosford Museum in 2018. The Smallpeice Trust and The Royal Aeronautical Society organised the STEM challenge event "Mission STEM possible". During the event students worked through a series of cyber based challenges that enabled them to complete a final engineering based challenge. The teams presented their projects to the panel of judges and the other pupils.

The overall STEM Champions were TEAM ASPIRE from Leasowes High School, the team were outstanding throughout the event and were complimented for how successfully they worked as a team.



Congratulations to the winning students:

TEAM ASPIRE

Maddison, Lily, Holly, Sakinah, Khadeeja and Kledia.

LEASOWES DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY STUDENTS WIN RAF STEM CHALLENGE

Two teams from Leasowes High School entered into the Royal Air Force STEM Glider Challenge 2018. The competition was at the RAF Cosford Museum, with 11 teams from the Midlands taking part. The challenge was to design and manufacture a foam board glider using skills from the STEM subjects.

The students from the two teams were outstanding throughout the day. The Screaming Eagles were crowned Overall Champions 2018 and the Aspire team won the award for Best Design.



Highly talented art student, Jake Year 10

OPEN EVENT DATES:

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9am-11am
Wednesday 19th September
Friday 21st September
Tuesday 25th September
Thursday 27th September

Overall winners: Screaming Eagles

Jessica, Isabel, Keisha, Jared, Junaid and Mikhail

Team quote:

"Our team have worked very hard for about 8 weeks to develop and manufacture a glider which is unique and glides efficiently. We have developed over 20 models and tested our gliders regularly. We designed a team logo and all of the graphics for the plane, portfolio and powerpoint presentation. The skills we have learnt in D&T really helped us to win the challenge. We have all chosen to study GCSE D&T next year and are looking forward to entering into next years STEM competition - F1 in Schools 2019. We would recommend all year 7 students to participate in next years RAF Glider Challenge."



Best Design Award: Team Aspire

Lily, Maddison and Holly

Team quote: "We really enjoyed our day for the glider challenge 2018 held at RAF Cosford Museum. Throughout the day we carried out our presentation and various activities that we had been working on after school and during lunchtimes. Our favourite activities were, the teamwork challenge (where we worked together to build a tower) and the glider flight (which was when we put our glider to the test). During lunch times, we had chance to look around the museum and we learnt lots of facts about the history of the planes there. Our team won the creative design award, which was based on our plane model and the graphic designs for it. The whole team experience has been fun, amazing and a great opportunity for us."

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